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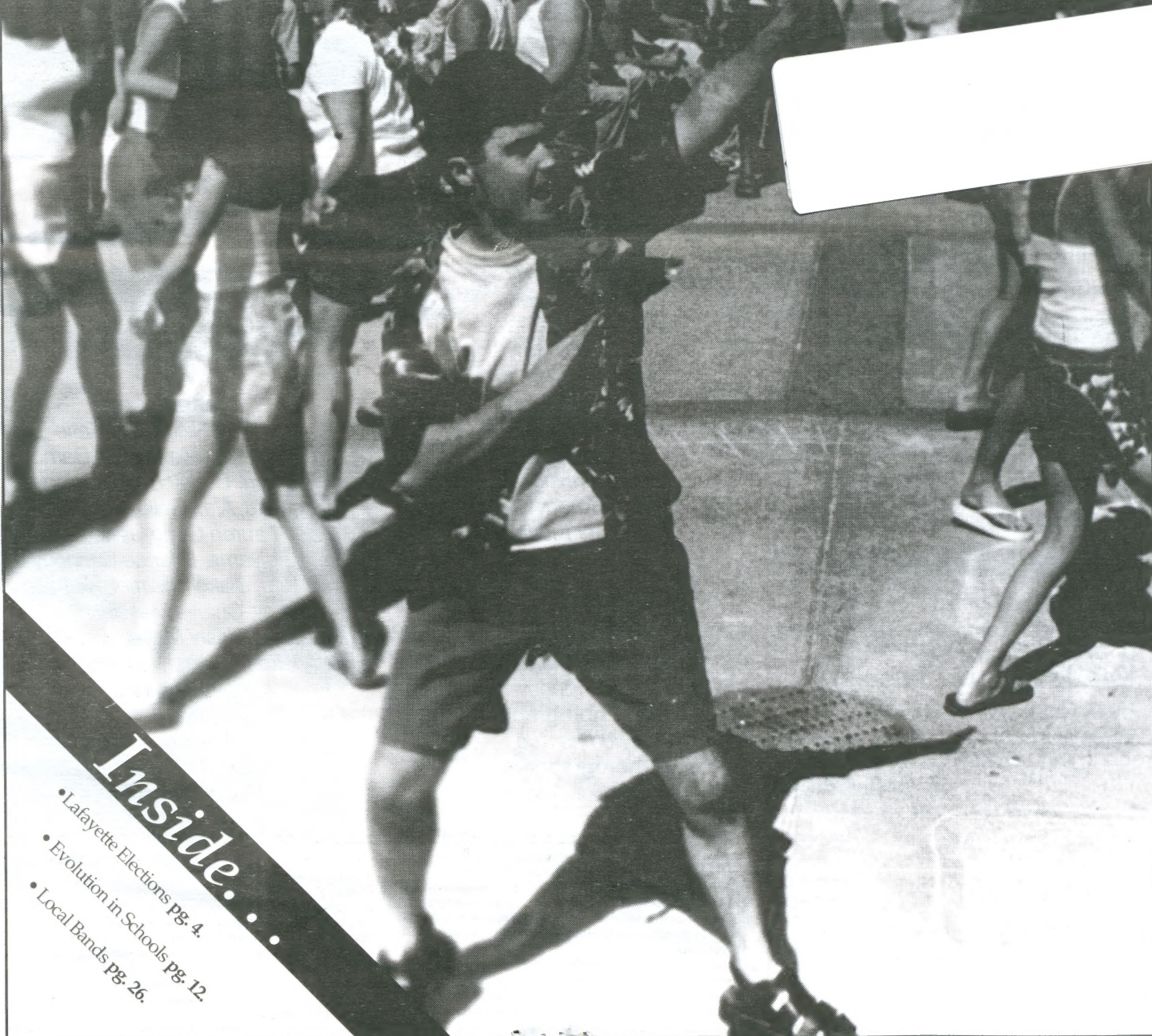
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BLUEPRINT

HOMEcoming '99

One Smooth Ride



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Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

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ON THE COVER: Seniors, led by Andrew Van Etten, give a winning lip-synch performance in the quad during lunch.

Photo of the Issue



Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlhauser

Junior Alexis Klein gives an enthusiastic performance in the junior class lip-synch performance in the quad on Monday, October 11.

Blueprint '99-'00

Editors-in-Chief

Brian Connolly
Andria Flakoll

Hannah Hens-Piazza

News Editor

Nathalie de Leon

Feature Editor

James Sherwood

Opinion Editor

Sam Cunningham

Entertainment Editor

Heather Klurfeld

Sports Editor

Myles Rush

Copy Editor

Peter Deng

Business Manager

Chris Kinney

Head Photographer

Thomas Kuo

Photographers

Bret Boudreaux

Joanna Dahlhauser

Sophia Maund
Will McCosker

Cartoonists

Noel Fahden
Victoria Yu

Staff

Jason Ahn, Nick Allen, Katie Burroughs, Danielle Cooke, Damon Diederich, Danny Ebert, Quinn Fitzgerald, Alex Gallo, Elisabeth Geier, Lauren Gong, Jenny Jun, Hiro Kagiya, Brianne Kennedy, Chris Kim, Blake Koelmel, Nathalie Krastev, Charlie Massie, Lexi Matsui, Kristy Mayer, Kevin Medeiros, Keenan Ng, Philippe Peyron, Kerry Ann Reid, Scott Schwertschar

Advisors

Larry Freeman
Marshall Grodin

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Editorials, with or without bylines, reflect the opinions of the editorial writer(s) and are independent of the opinions of the school administration, student body, faculty, advisor and staff.

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Acalanes *Blueprint*
1200 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Lafayette, CA 94549

Tel: (925) 935-2600 ext. 127

A CALANES BLUEPRINT NEWS

INSIDE



Homecoming
pg. 5

Blueprint

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EDUCATION CODES

Long Arm of the Law Reaches Off-Campus

By Nathalie de Leon
News Editor

Despite typical student belief that the suspension of a Campo student for the off-campus creation of a web site violated First Amendment rights, the administration appears to have legal justification, but administrators will still not comment on whether or not they followed the California due process of suspension.

Education Code 48907 stipulates that student publications are protected by laws regarding freedom of the press, including an anti-censorship provision that limits the power of the administration from stopping the publication of student-produced materials. Ed. Code 48950, a modifier for EC48907, provides that no district can create a policy that "subjects a student to disciplinary sanctions solely on the basis of speech of other communication that would be constitutionally protected if engaged in outside of campus."

According to Mike Hiestand, attorney to the Student Press Law Center in Washington, D.C., web sites made on campus are protected under student publication laws, but this site was off-campus.

District administrators did not respond to multiple calls over a two-week period, but previously told *Blueprint* that the student was suspended for disrupting the orderly functions of the school with the web site because it damaged the reputations of several faculty members.

EC48907 states that students cannot "substantially disrupt the school's orderly operation."

The SPLC contends that the student's actions were not punishable by the school because they were off school grounds and not during school hours. "The fact that he created (the web site) off-campus gives him the legal rights of a full adult," said Hiestand.



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

Hiestand said the administration should have taken legal action, not punitive action. "(Administrators) can sue him, but they can't punish him," said Hiestand. "They can't mother (students) 24 hours a day."

AUHSD Lawyer Nancy Boerne declined to comment on the legal justification of the suspension. However, according to a California School Board Association memo sent to *Blueprint*, the district's actions are probably based on an uncodified section of California Law, and there is a case precedent that establishes the district's ability to punish students for off-campus activities.

According to the US Supreme Court Decision in *Tinker v. Des Moines School District* (1969), "conduct by a student, in class or out of it, which for any reason materially disrupts classwork or involves substantial

disorder or invasion of the rights of others is not immunized by the constitutional guarantee of free speech."

If student actions fulfill this provision, according to the CSBA memo, the school has the burden of proof, and it must follow the due process outlined in the State Ed. Codes which provides that a conference first be held with the student. If the issue is not resolved, the problem is brought to the principal and superintendent. If neither meeting can settle the dispute without punitive actions, the student may be suspended. The Governing Board hears all student appeals.

Campo and AUHSD administrators declined to comment on whether or not this process was followed. The student was unavailable, but, according to several sources, his parents did not contest the suspension.

LAFAYETTE ELECTION

Young Candidate Challenges Veterans

By Lexi Matsui
Staff Writer

Three of the four City Council candidates for this year's November election have many years of experience in running Lafayette, with the sole exception of newcomer Thomas Del Beccaro who says that though he is less experienced, he is young, excited, and ready to change Lafayette.

The other candidates are Carol Federighi, current Mayor and Council Member Erling Horn, and current Vice-Mayor and Council Member Jay Strauss.

Federighi, Horn, and Strauss, have all served on the planning commission in the past. Horn has been serving on City Council for four years, and Strauss has served for two and a half years.

The three feel that they would represent all Lafayette citizens, but Del Beccaro feels strongly that "the existing council lacks representation from a large segment of the population which are younger parents and their children." According to Del Beccaro, parents and students of Lafayette make up about 50% of the city's population, and he is the only candidate that has a young child in the Lafayette School District. He is also the youngest candidate at 37 years old, while Federighi is 58, Horn is 61, and Strauss is 55.

Federighi believes that there is no "magic pill" for the traffic problem. "Traffic has always been a problem in Lafayette and is always a concern of mine," she said.

The traffic problem in Lafayette is Del

Beccaro's main concern as well. He formed L.A.S.T; Lafayette's Alliance for Safer Traffic. Del Beccaro feels that in the past twenty years, City Council has done nothing about the impact of traffic from Moraga.

Horn already has some plans that are currently under way to help remedy the traffic problem. He wants a bus to run up and down Reliez Valley Road to relieve traffic at Acalanes High School. He supports the plan to double the size of Plaza Park in downtown Lafayette and make Golden Gate Blvd. a one-way street to lessen the traffic flow on Mt. Diablo Road.

Strauss is working hard on the traffic along the Moraga Rd. and Mt. Diablo Blvd. "Y." He feels that there is too much clogging in that area.

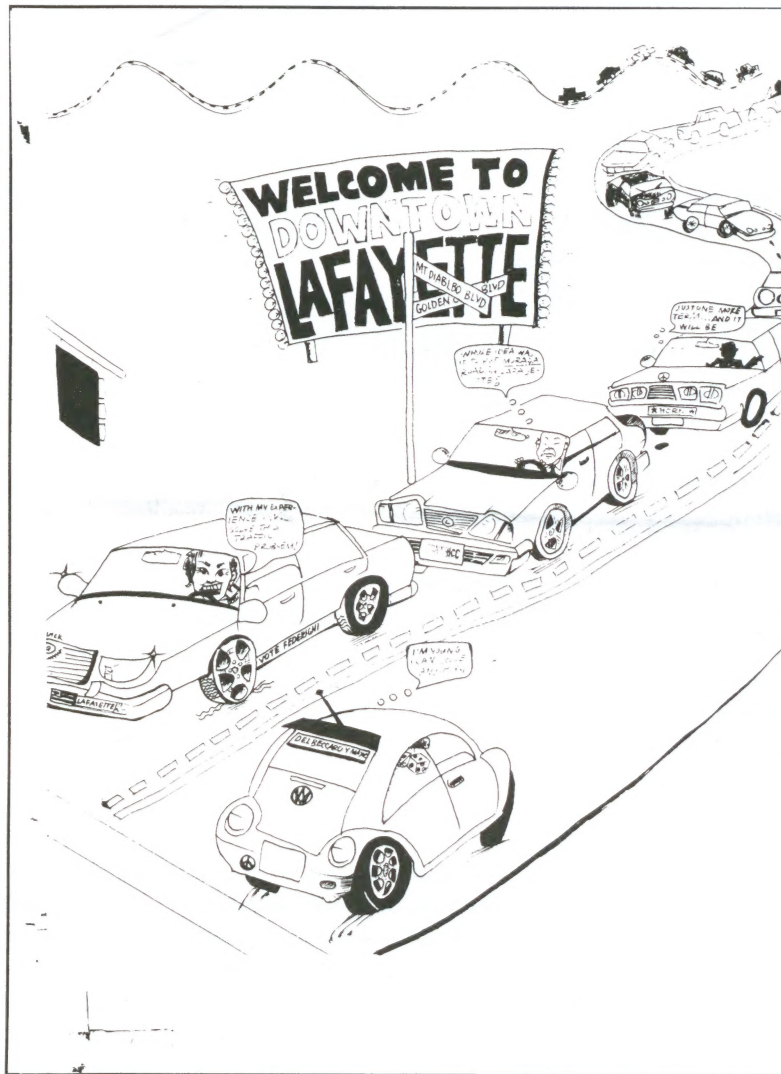
Federighi is concerned about downtown Lafayette. She feels that it needs to have more life brought into it. "For a while," she said, "we had boarded up stores and many shops that couldn't make it." The city has brought in more shops and restaurants to try and make downtown Lafayette more consumer-friendly.

Horn has also been doing just that by trying to revitalize the area near the BART station, where Freddie's Pizza used to be. Construction has begun there for four retail stores, including a Chico's clothing store and a bike shop. The area will also include an office building and a 75-unit apartment complex.

"The idea is that you could potentially live there without owning a vehicle," said Horn.

Strauss wants to bring in a new and improved library, one that will be highly technical and will bring up the property value in Lafayette.

"There are already 500 people a day using the library," he said. "We have a very intelligent and educated community."



Blueprint Illustration/Victoria Yu

"Orinda has kept its narrow streets. Lafayette has consistently widened its streets and accommodated Moraga traffic," said Del Beccaro. He does not believe Lafayette should simply allow Moraga traffic through Lafayette while Orinda can narrow its streets to keep Moraga traffic out. He advocates the regulation of traffic flow from Moraga so that Lafayette has fewer traffic jams.

HOMECOMING '99

Homecoming Changes Get Mixed Reviews

By Kristy Mayer and
Scott Schwertscharf

Staff Writers

While administrators say that they are taking steps forward with changes to this year's Homecoming, the student body feels that changes are moving in the wrong direction.

The Acalanes student body, except for the freshman class, has expressed overwhelming discontent concerning the issue of Homecoming policy changes that have been made by administrators in the last two years.

Last year, administrators moved float building on campus to prevent vandalism which host houses had suffered in previous years. In addition, powderpuff football, which was traditionally held after school, was moved to lunch, and there were no in-and-out privileges at float building after 6:30 p.m.

General feeling within the student body is that the policy changes restricting Homecoming put a damper on enjoyment of the events.

"I sent out (a poll) to get the reactions from the classes and they were all negative," said Student Senate President Grace Woods.

The administration and staff, however, maintain that the policy changes have come about because of students taking advantage of their privileges, and they are now necessary for Homecoming to run well.

"Kids have earned the right to be restricted," said Social Studies teacher Ramsay Thomas. However, he also acknowledged that only a small percentage of kids misbehaved during school-related events.

Erin Dodd, a sophomore member of the Rally Board, said she feels the restrictions take away from the fun of Homecoming, but there is nothing that the student body

can do now to have the rules changed.

"I feel like the restrictions make Homecoming a lot less fun. We've all talked about trying to change it, but there's no way of getting around it," said Dodd.



Senior Lizzie Block evades freshman Stacy Henderson reaching for her flag in a run for the touchdown.

In contrast, Rod Keillor, the faculty advisor for Homecoming, feels that last year's on-campus float building turned out fine.

"I think last year...it was very festive," said Keillor. "The reactions that I got from everybody were very positive that it was on campus."

Keillor and the Rally Board also view powderpuff's move to lunch as more of a positive change than a negative one. They feel that it creates more time for float building and draws larger crowds to the games.

After last year's intense powderpuff games, which resulted in the injury of a senior girl, the district was close to shutting down the powderpuff activities all together.

Lauren MacKenzie, head of the Rally Board, said the district decided to allow powderpuff because parents voiced strong support for the program.

"A lot of parents...from other schools were really upset. They talked to the school board, and they complained (until) the principals of all the high schools got together and made a list of rules that had to be followed in order to bring powderpuff back," said MacKenzie.

The new rules include that all practices have to be at lunch, and there are to be no off-campus or unsupervised practices. Also, players are not eligible to play unless they attend both practices.

There are generally fewer complaints about the changes raised by the freshman class than by the other classes, which, in previous years, had float building off-campus and in-and-out privileges.

Freshman Jacob Farris said that he had heard many people complaining about the new rules. However, he said, "I don't mind having float-building on campus. I like it on campus because I can just go there after class, and freshmen don't have to worry about getting egged."

Students from the other classes seem to have to opposite opinion of the restrictions.

"I don't like (the no in-and-out privileges). It kind of puts a downer on (Homecoming)," said Sophomore Lindsay Arthur.

Trevor Cochrane, another sophomore, echoed Arthur. "If (Homecoming) were at people's houses...it would be a lot more fun. I think that's the biggest reason why the upperclassmen aren't coming, because they know it was a lot better before."

Blueprint Photo/Josanna Dahlhauser

HOMECOMING PHOTOS

A Picture Perfect Homecoming For '99



Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlhauser



Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlhauser



Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlhauser

CAPTIONS

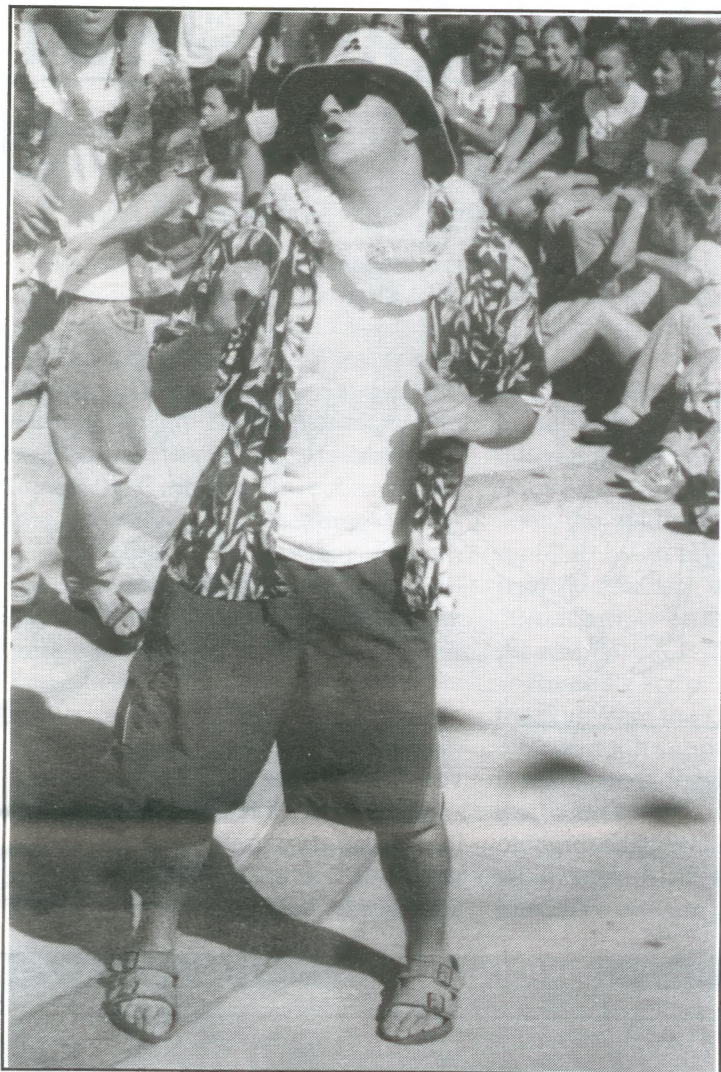
(top left) The Don is donned on her own form of transportation during the Oct. 14 Homecoming Rally by her entourage.

(top right) The cheerleaders do a riveting senior cheer and end with traditional stunting for the opening Homecoming rally.

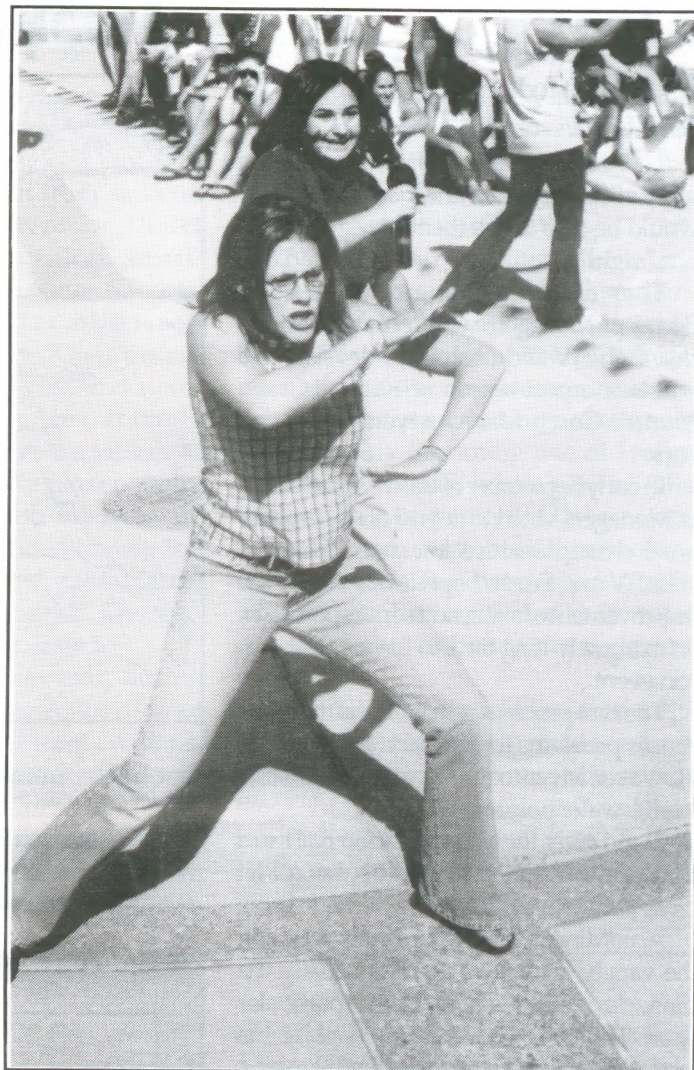
(bottom) Seniors win the Lip-Synch competition with their own rendition of Fatboy's "Wipeout."

HOMECOMING PHOTOS

Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlhauser



Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlhauser



CAPTIONS

(top left) Senior Class President Damon Peters shakes it in his surfer attire for the Monday Lip-Synch competition.

(top right) Juniors Alexis Klein and Alexandra Ayoub dance around the quad to the Top Gun theme song.

(bottom) Junior Beth Barbera pants past a sophomore powderpuff player with her team cheering her on at the sidelines.



Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlhauser

LEAGUE OF CHAMPIONS

District Cancels Junior Varsity Post-Season

By Kevin Medeiros

Staff Writer

Let's say that a JV or frosh/soph team won every game in their season. They would be able to call themselves "champions," right?

They can't, according to the District Board of Managers who recently decided that at the JV and frosh/soph levels, there will be no post-season activities. Cross-country Coach Manny Myers is fighting back.

In early September of this year, the Board of Managers voted to get rid of non-varsity level championships because kids miss class, JV and Frosh/Soph levels are for the improvement of skills, and some sports take an extremely long time to have a post-season event.

The first problem is that time out of class causes problems for teachers and students. However, Myers complains that the district lets the water polo team out at 12:30 on some days and gives the Miramonte football team three days in Orlando but they won't let cross-country out at two for just one day.

According to Principal Keith Schmidt, the varsity level for a sport is usually the pinnacle of achievement for that particular sport. Thus, the JV and Frosh/Soph teams are intended to aid the growth of players.

"In JV and Frosh, the emphasis is more on developing players, or at least it is supposed to be, than in having the best record," said Schmidt. Although Myers agrees with this he also believes that "the kids should get one last chance to prove to themselves what they can do."

Many JV and Frosh/Soph kids are upset with the decision because it takes away from their time to compete and their time to show that they should be on varsity.

"I think it is unfair because some JV and Frosh/Soph kids have worked just as hard as the varsity (team) and they don't get a chance to prove themselves," said Sophomore cross-country runner Martin Pochop.

The decision was also made to be fair to all sports and not to allow one sport a post season while another does not get one.

"Is it fair to penalize track by saying



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

that track can't do it but cross country can?" said Schmidt.

Myers responded, "What he forgot to mention was the fact that I went to the meeting representing track as well and I

voted not to have a track post season."

The League scheduled one more meeting that occurred yesterday to hear arguments to reinstate the post season activities for the non-varsity levels.

NOXIOUS FUMES



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

Workers dig at the defunct gas station across the street to remove leaky storage tanks which deposited gas into the soil. Its exposure to the air released fumes. Students and faculty, especially in the portables, complained of the smell and were slightly rattled by the administration's warning of possibly toxic fumes.



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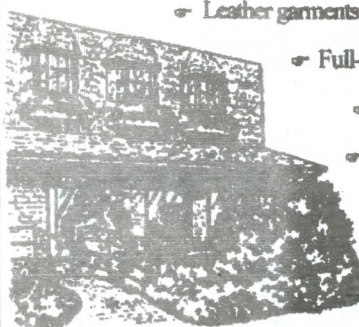
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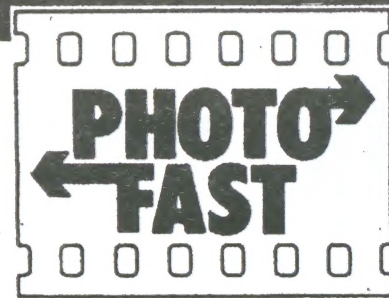
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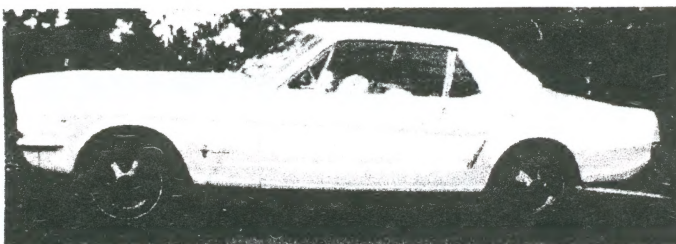
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FIELD CLOSURE

Field Lunch Privileges Revoked

By Chris Kim and Phil Peyron
Staff Writers

The students' privilege to use the freshman football field at lunch has gone up in smoke.

The administration decided to close the field at lunch primarily for safety reasons, but also because of the smoking that took place on it. The district aimed to draw the students closer to the school buildings so that it would be easier to warn them in case of an emergency situation.

However, many who utilized the field disagree.

"They say it's for our own personal protection, like if they needed to bring all the students into the building, they could get word to us. That's basically a lie. We know the real reason was that kids left their cigarette butts out there, and they closed it," said a student smoker who wished to remain anonymous.

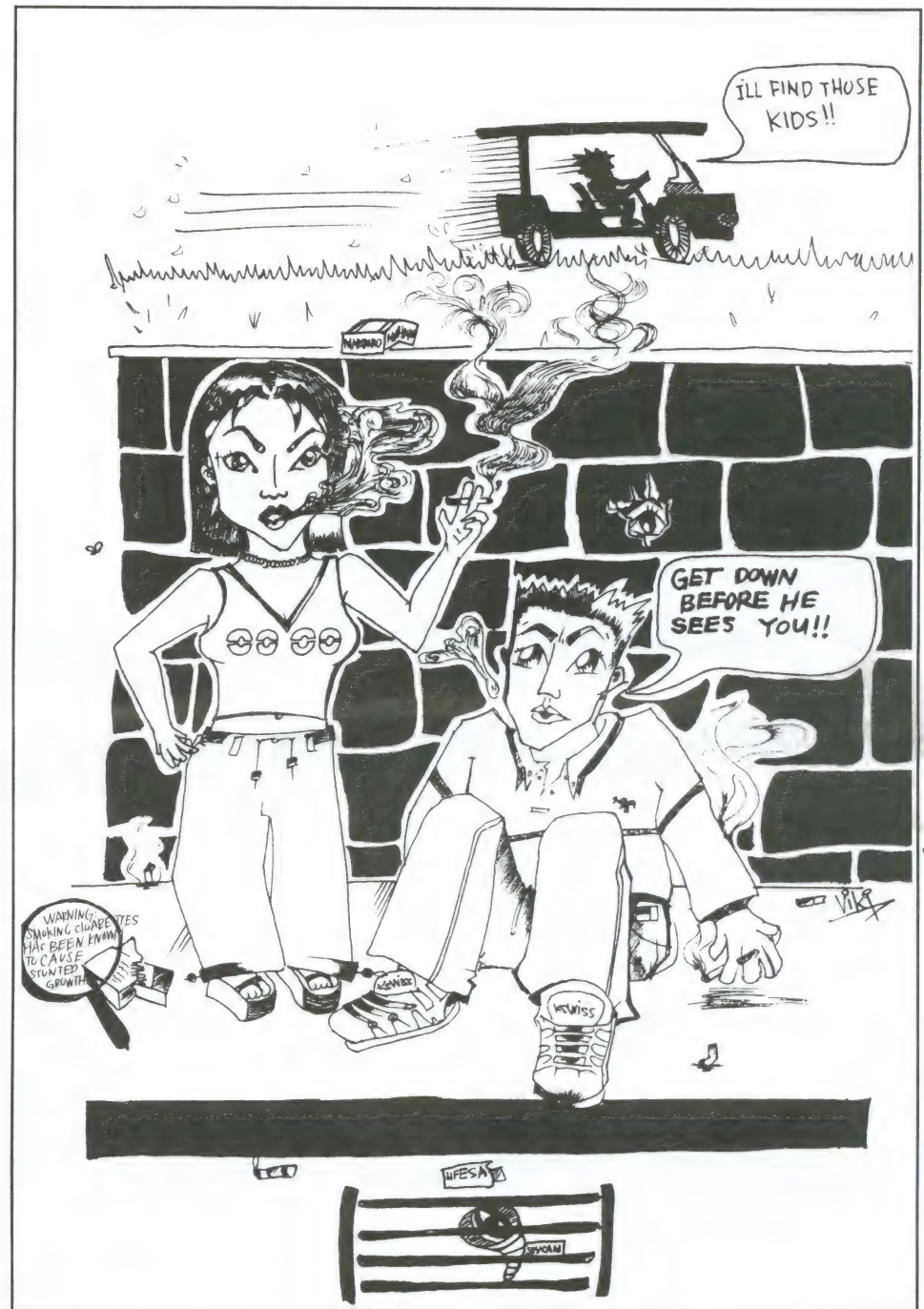
Principal Keith Schmidt acknowledged the fact that smoking was one of the reasons for the closure. "We tried to work with a system of telling them that [the use of the field] was a privilege, and that it would be made unavailable if it was abused. It was abused, and while [the safety issue] was one reason, there is also this [smoking] issue," said Schmidt.

Administrators patrol halls routinely, but some smokers feel that administrators have been patrolling the halls at lunch more actively to catch smokers. Principal Schmidt denied that the patrolling was an effort to seek out smokers.

"Sometimes the level of patrolling is directly proportionate to who we have available," said Schmidt.

Students that have tried to sneak a smoke on the field or behind autoshop feel that they are being sought after. "At lunch or brunch, those areas are out of bounds, so if they're caught back there, whether they're smoking or not, they're in trouble for being out of bounds," said Schmidt.

While it is not known whether or not the field closure has worked to cut down student smoking, some students have claimed that they don't smoke as much at school. Even though these students have



Blueprint Illustration/Victoria Yu

chosen to smoke at home, they are still disappointed by their inability to smoke at school. "Since I hardly ever smoke at school anymore, I'm having a hard time paying attention [in class] and my grades have lowered," said one sophomore.

Still, there are students who risk getting caught for the sake of nicotine by crouching in bushes or hiding behind buildings. "I

think it's ridiculous that I have to hide somewhere for a cigarette when it was my decision to smoke. I don't get why everyone is so strict on us. It's not like we are hurting anybody," said one student. Students at Acalanes seem not to care that smoking is illegal for minors. "I think that everyone should be able to choose how they live their life," said one senior.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT FEATURE



Evolution vs.
Creationism
Pg. 12

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SCUBA DIVING

Diving Into The Denizen of The Deep

By Blake Koelmel
Staff Writer

The surging ocean, the gentle breeze, and the intense penetrating Hawaiian sun were part of the ambiance as we geared up for the day's underwater adventure. The encouraging cries of tropical birds echoed from shore amid the seductive lapping of waves on the ladder as my buddy and I lugged the heavy scuba tanks aft. We sat down, not far from the ladder, and pulled on our fins as the Diver Two gently rocked with each beckoning swell.

Below us lay a swirling myriad of elegant creatures and a scuba diver's dream of observing an octopus's pulsing swim, a Moray eel's vicious strike, or a roaming sea turtle glide through the water. For those of us who chose to dive in Kona, Hawaii that day the "plungee sous marine" turned out not only to be a sightseeing adventure, but also a dive into the realm of the deep where answers lay to the mysteries of life and self.

So, with our fins strapped snug, the tangy smell of toothpaste in our masks (toothpaste is an effective defogger), and the dry taste of bottled air in our mouths, my buddy and I were the first to "giant stride" into this unexplored realm of the deep. As we descended, we left the cackling of birds and the lapping of water. We could no longer feel the weight of our high-tech equipment on our shoulders. In this weightless world, there was just the sound of the bubbles that I breathed and the thoughts that I forged.

As we entered this unique world, fish all around stared at us in cautious disbelief - not sure that we were a hungry predator but not taking any chance

either. They gawked at us through bulging eyes and hovered a "safe" distance away, while flapping their side fins constantly. A nearby parrot fish, who was absolutely radiant in blues, greens, and reds, caught my attention. While returning its gaze I was suddenly filled with an urge to pet it. I slowly maneuvered myself so that I was within "petting" distance of this fascinating creature and began to reach out my hand when it turned its tail and swam away.

As much as I wanted to feel like I was interacting with what we humans casually regard as lower life forms, I don't blame the parrot fish for swimming away. In my own depths I recalled spotting a six-foot white-tipped reef shark tucked back motionless in the protective shadows of a small rock outcropping of rocks. Oblivious to the crashing fury of the swells that poured down upon volcanic rock above our heads, we maneuvered for a better look at "this perfect killing machine." It became apparent that we were blocking its only escape route when it awoke and began moving. I didn't bolt the second this cartilaginous beauty began nervously circling back and forth in the rock inlet. The power, agility, and sleekness of this creature fascinated me, but I definitely kept a safe distance. If it had approached me, however, two things would have happened. First of all, I would have bolted out of there faster than "Q" could say Ford. And second, you probably wouldn't be hearing this story.

The parrot fish's fear-driven tail frantically beat back and forth as it rushed away from my out-stretched hand. I could almost see myself in the same position if that white tipped reef shark had decided to try and rub noses. I guess there's a natural instinct born within all

of us animals to fear and act accordingly. But without the shark's unparalleled allure, we divers, with all our hoses and bubbles, could probably have scared the parrot fish away on looks alone even before trying to approach it.

With the parrot fish gone and time working against us, we forged onward and followed the ripples on the sandy bottom to a pair of rock clusters. We had our little hand-held flashlights and like an indoor cat sizing up a new house, we peered intently into every single nook and cranny of every rock looking for anything that moved.

Something did! A four-foot moray eel emerged from the shelter of a secluded rock and began wandering from rock cluster to rock cluster as it ferociously stabbed at whatever source of food it found it on the way. This one I didn't want to pet. Its spotted brown color and the abundance of needle-like teeth in its mouth was more than enough deterrent for me. As much as I wanted to grab it's wiggling tail, my self preservation instinct kicked in and said "no." There was definitely something fascinating about the way it swam. Its body writhed back and forth in a snake-like motion as it tried to use the pathetic fins on its dorsal and ventral sides.

Suddenly, a pair of shadows fell upon us. I looked to the surface, completely forgetting the moray eel and its quest for food. I knew it wasn't me on the lunch list. Up, near the surface, were two green sea turtles, one on top of the other. The sun's rays completely encompassed these elegant creatures as they passed between the

SCUBA DIVING

sun and us, revealing only their silhouettes. Everything about these awe-inspiring sea turtles was graceful and gentle. Their front flippers beat rhythmically against the viscosity of the ocean's water, coasting like birds through the air. Even this mating process was graceful in its own sort of way.

While watching these turtles, it occurred to me that being able to swim among the parrot fish, follow the Moray as it hunts for food, and observe the majestic movements of these sacred and endangered sea turtles, were definitely the highlights of the day. Right then, when I was getting low on air and the dive was almost over, I felt a sense of satisfaction that we had been able to see a special part of life, a different view, an aspect of the world we had never seen before. My tank was emptying, but this diving experience was filling a void in my character.

This sense of satisfaction came in part from having visually experienced the turtle or the eel, but more so from having personally experienced a change in perspective. It occurred to me down there, that all of our advanced technology and understanding of the world doesn't really mean as much as we fool ourselves into thinking. Instead, all that matters is that we now fit into the hierarchy of size and predators thus setting us on an even keel with the rest of the sea life that surrounds us. It didn't matter that I had a high-tech oxygen bottle on my back and a shiny dive knife when I saw that shark. If he had charged, I would have gladly given way.

So as my buddy and I hauled ourselves and our clunky scuba gear out of the water and back on

to the Diver Two, it dawned on me that with all our great achievements and amazing mental capabilities, human kind still has much in common with those simple sea creatures now below us. I realized, as we were heading back to shore, that as a species, we have accomplished so much that it is almost unbelievable that we are capable of such feats. Yet, we are still animals and we tend to forget this truth. Not unlike the parrot fish that swam away, we too have a sense of preservation and fear. Not unlike the moray eel who was out for his morning snack, we too feel hunger. And not unlike the magnificent sea turtles, we too have a lust for the opposite sex.

Ironically, it was the technology, and the scuba equipment, that enabled me to discover that broader view of our existence in life. It was the direct result of our brainpower that helped me perceive this view. I think eventually we as a species will realize that being able to gain com-

plete control over our emotions is the easiest way to solving our worldly problems. With worldly organizations such as the UN, we as a species have already taken a step in attempting to control the territorial instinct that humans experience.

Mankind has already proven that it has the ability to recognize and even control these primal emotions and instincts; that we can do what is right for humanity and the world in which we live. The key is, however, that we need to remember that we have this ability and remember to put it to use when the time calls for it.

It was just about then, that I suddenly realized that Allison had been on our boat the whole trip and I had never even noticed her. Wow, she is pretty too: her golden hair, slender figure, and gorgeous smile. So of course I thought, "Hunh... Woman..." and swam through the sea of divers to introduce myself.



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Falden

EVOLUTION VS. CREATION

Kansas To Keep Evolution Out of Schools

By Brianne Kennedy
Staff Writer

If Emilie Steffen, a high school senior in Cunningham, Kansas, were to ask her science teacher how earth was created and how life had evolved, it is likely his reply would be unusually long. The reason: it is her teacher's policy to devote equal classroom time to teaching the theory of evolution, and the theory of creationism.

When the Kansas Board of Education adopted new pro-creationism science standards this year, the debate over whether to teach the theory of evolution or the theory of creationism in public schools was once again generously fueled. However, at Acalanes, it may be silently smoldering.

Principles of Biology, the Biology textbook used in Acalanes classrooms devotes nearly 100 pages to the explanation of Darwin's theory of evolution. Creationism, a popularly held theory that rejects evolution and is based on the teachings of The Bible, is mentioned only in a paragraph meant to simply acknowledge that other evolutionary theories exist.

"It spends a lot of time trying to disprove creationism," said Acalanes Biology teacher Lori Tewksbury. It may even "bend over backwards" to do so, she said.

The proposal made by the Kansas Board of Education, removes the theory of evolution from all state-mandated standardized tests, and leaves it up to local communities to decide whether evolution or creationism is taught in public classrooms. This proposal has received mixed reviews by Acalanes administrators, parents, and teachers.

Acalanes Principal Keith Schmidt, who feels that evolution is perhaps promoted by the way that it is presented in Acalanes classrooms, said, "Assuming it represents more of a large segment (of Kansans' personal convictions, the Board of Education's decision) is probably a shrewd political decision."



Blueprint Photo/Bret Boudreaux

Were humans created by God or by Darwin? Skulls sit in Rosemarie Bauer's Biology classroom, a sign of Acalanes' teaching of the theory of evolution.

Jane Ebe, the mother of two Acalanes students and a former micro-biologist, thinks that what has happened in Kansas is "crazy." Although her family is very involved at church, she sees the new standards as a sign that society is "moving backwards."

"They should not teach creationism anywhere," she said. "If you interpret The Bible literally, you're crazy."

Tewksbury, who personally doesn't "understand why people get so upset about (the whole controversy)," thinks that the Board is primarily "doing a disservice to the students."

In college, "you are definitely at a disadvantage if you haven't seen (the theory of evolution) before," she said.

However, Stef fen, who would like to work in the scientific field when she grows up and whose family supports the teaching of evolution in the classroom, feels like she is at no disadvantage.

"I don't feel like I've been denied anything," she said.

According to Schmidt, it is very rare for an Acalanes student to request

exemption from learning about evolution on a basis of their differing religious convictions. The request must be accompanied by an explanatory note from the student's parent, and the student can expect to do "an assignment of equal work and time," he said.

Tewksbury has only been confronted by a parent once over the issue. The parent, whose child was not even an Acalanes student at the time, began to question Tewksbury about teaching evolution, but was turned away once she was told, "I never ask students to believe anything."

Many Acalanes students who are Christians separate their religious views from the work that they are required to do in class, but there are times when interaction is inevitable.

"I don't pay attention as much as I should (when being taught evolution)," said an Acalanes junior who attends church regularly and who wishes to have her name withheld. "I disagree with it."

NEW TEACHERS

Carlson Makes a Comeback at Acalanes

By Jenny Jun*Staff Writer*

Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund



If given the opportunity to meet a famous person, most people would choose to meet Ben Affleck, Julia Roberts, or some other glamorous Hollywood movie star. However, Janet Carlson, the new world history and government teacher wouldn't mind meeting Michelangelo for his artistic genius, Beethoven for his musical intellect, or Napoleon for his ever expanding need

for power. As for Adolf Hitler, "If I was stuck in an elevator with him, I'd make conversation about his spark of evil."

Carlson's history started in Oakland, and she stayed in the Bay Area to raise her family. She graduated from UC Berkeley, and is a current student at St. Mary's working on her Master's degree.

A former student at Skyline High, Carlson remembers herself as part of the talkative bunch and says she played the violin because she could "talk, chew gum, and play an instrument at the same time." She was elected senior class vice president and was very involved in government at school.

Mrs. Carlson loves every second of teaching and says it never gets tiresome. "One of the best parts of teaching is that it keeps you laughing and on your feet." Carlson teaches history because "it's a continual story and if we can tie in what's happened in the past with the present and future, everything will make more sense to us."

"I like to go to different sports and musi-

cal events to see my students in another light," Carlson said. She hopes that her students will "do whatever they can to give back to society, whether it's compassion or something tangible."

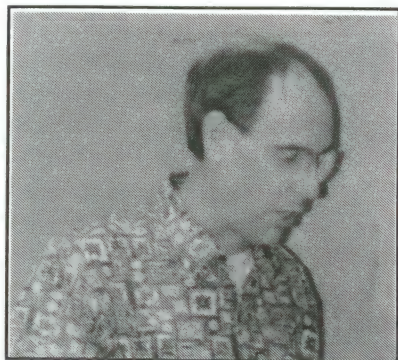
Mrs. Carlson's view on school is learning comes first, but "grades balance it out and are the reward." To succeed in life, Carlson agrees with Winston Churchill because she believes in "never giving up even if something is really hard and you feel like throwing in the towel."

Carlson's biggest problem with society is violence in the media, which she thinks should be "filtered out" of kids' lives. To prevent a Columbine-like tragedy from occurring at Acalanes, Carlson has volunteered to be the teacher advisor for the Students Against Violence Club. "If there was more emphasis on education, crime rates could go down," she said. Overall, she feels positive changes would occur, if "each person would tackle one small problem of education."

Veteran Teacher Adds Experience to AHS

By Nathalie Krastev*Staff Writer*

Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund



Bruce Downing, a new member of the math department for Acalanes High School loves teaching for his new school, and has high hopes for all of his kids.

Teaching Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2, Downing has also had experience in a variety of other subjects, such as science and computer science.

Now in his 17th year of teaching high

school students, Downing admits that he never expected to be a teacher. In fact, you could say that his desire to teach kids evolved from his interest in volleyball. He says, "I became a teacher because I enjoyed working with kids at summer volleyball camps."

Downing coached volleyball at schools like Stanford and UC Berkeley for a number of years. He also played competitively in the national and international level.

Downing says he still coaches for his daughter's club team every year, but his main passions at the moment are teaching and raising kids. "I retired from that (volleyball) -- at least I keep telling myself I did," Downing says sarcastically.

Downing's most recent teaching job has been at Albany High School for the past twelve years. The first year he moved out to California, Downing taught at Los Altos high school. Two or three years before that, he taught at South Mountain High School in Phoenix, Arizona.

During his school years, Downing's favorite subjects were math and science. While attending school at Albany High School near Berkely, he played on the tennis team, and was involved in many clubs.

After high school, Downing was on his way to UC Berkeley to earn his math degree, and then to the University of Colorado to earn a degree in Environmental Conservation Biology.

Downing says his goal as a teacher is to aid kids in taking pride in what they do and encourage them to live up to their full potential. As a teacher, Downing realizes that not everyone loves math, but he tries to keep his students focused on doing the best job they can, and to strive for excellence.

Downing has high hopes for Acalanes, as he says, "Most of the kids are very respectful. I think they have a certain self-worth which a lot of young people don't."

"At Acalanes," he says, "I think the goal is almost already realized."

HOMECOMING HISTORY

Homecoming Traditions A Thing of the Past

By **Brianne Kennedy**
Staff Writer

Homecoming at Acalanes in 1999 can best be described as a flurry of events. In a week dominated by activities meant to promote school spirit, pride and "friendly" class competition.

While it would be difficult for any current Acalanes student to imagine, Homecoming, traditionally a time when alumni return for a gala football game, has not always been so grand or lengthy.

In the late 1940's, a few years after Acalanes was founded, Homecoming consisted of only a football game at which alumni were recognized. By the 1950's, all that had changed was that there was a new emphasis on the Friday rally that preceded the Homecoming football game.

Acalanes teacher Sherill Barber, a student at Acalanes during the 50's, said that the focus remained primarily on the football team.

"Our strongest rival was Mt. Diablo," she said. "Football was the basic sport."

Also, most of the activities that constitute Homecoming at Acalanes today were generally reserved for college campuses. In fact, in the 1959 Aklan, Acalanes's yearbook, "Homecoming" is not even mentioned.

Acalanes Principal Keith Schmidt confirmed the trickle down effect. "Just as everything else has seeped down to the high schools, what used to be just a small concept has developed into a full-blown thing," he said. "Over time, the high school has been perceived as being more responsible for providing activities."

According to Barber, it was finally in the 1960's that "the idea of having a theme for Homecoming really developed." At that time, each class would decorate its

own hallway in the color that was designated. For the first time, parade floats were made and pulled around the outdoor track and powder puff football made its debut.

Homecoming may have reached its prime in the 1980's, when there were actually more activities than there had ever been before, and since.

"They went all out," said Barber, whose son graduated in 1988.

Homecoming lasted two weeks rather than one, each class decorated its own portion of the gym; there was a breakfast on the first Monday; the royalty dressed up at the football games; and so much happened at half time at the football game that the referees would often call a delay of game.

As problems surrounding student behavior in the early 90's during Homecoming began to surface, Homecoming was receded even further.

"Too many people could not resist causing trouble," said Schmidt regarding his 1998 decision to hold float-building on campus after private property had been severely damaged by competing classes. Since then, float-building "has turned totally positive," he said.

Of Homecoming 1999, Schmidt said, "I think this has been the best homecoming I've ever seen...It was just good wholesome fun."

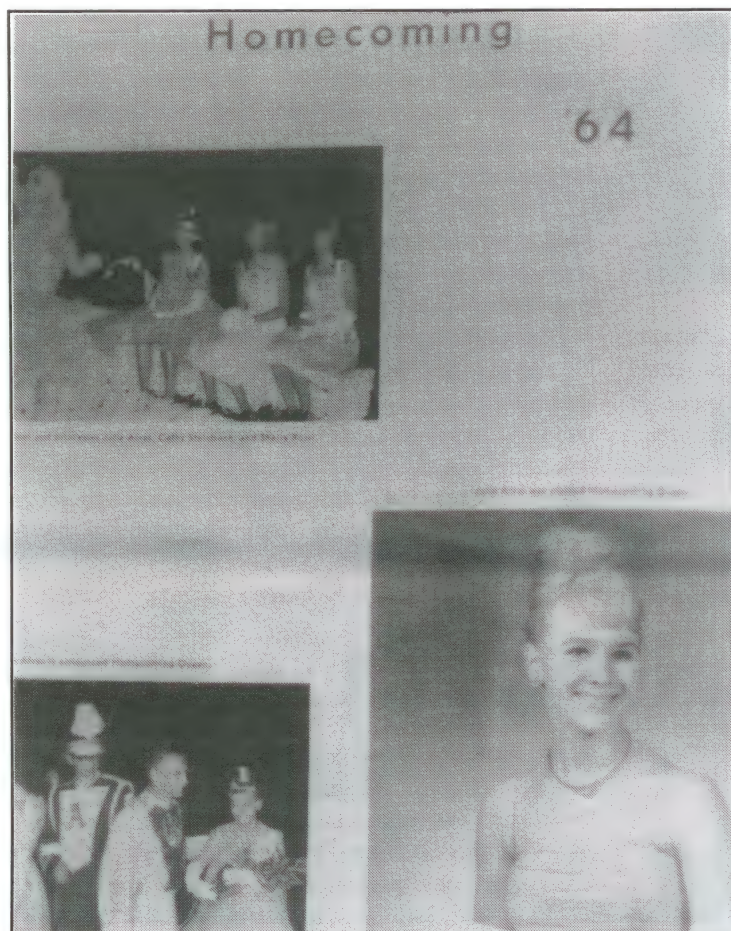
However, many students disagree, and hold little hope

for future improvements.

"It seems to be getting worse each year," said junior Dan Brast.

The main thing many students feel is hindering homecoming of today, is the increase in restrictions.

"The administrators have taken over Homecoming. I think Homecoming would drastically improve if the administration could get off our backs, and give us the freedom we deserve. Otherwise, we might as well not even have Homecoming."



A 1964 yearbook displays the drastic changes homecoming has made in the past 30 years.

The 1969 Aklan shows the role of Homecoming Royalty to be even more prestigious than it is today. There are pictures of each female winner that fill half of a page, and there are also many pictures of the winning girls actually riding on their class floats- which were still paraded around the track.

In the 1970's, Homecoming expanded even more. "Homecoming became "Superweek," and class competitions such as "pie-eating" and even "couch breaking" became all the rage.

Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

CLUBS

Students Excel in Acalanes Clubs

By Keenan Ng

Staff Writer

Clubs at Acalanes prove to be very popular year in and year out. While many clubs are centered on culture, food, and music, there are some who focus on yelling at others, and exercising power. For those select individuals, Acalanes has quite a few clubs who have had tremendous success at providing this need. Two of which are Model United Nations and Youth and Government.

The Acalanes chapter of Model United Nations was founded four years ago by recent Acalanes graduate, Jeff Price. In Model UN, students represent various nations in a simulation of the debates that occur everyday in the United Nations headquarters in New York City. At first, the club started out slow with a mere two members. Since then, Model UN has rapidly expanded to become one of the most popular clubs at Acalanes. Last year, with about 60 members attending the Santa Clara conference, the Acalanes Model UN delegation has grown to become a powerhouse delegation in the Bay Area.

The main goal of Model UN, according to club president, Vijay Sekhon, is to "prepare kids in a future of a debate related field," such as law or any other job in which communication is required. It is the club's hope to "educate students about global events and issues." In Model UN, delegations such as Acalanes, attend conferences in various places where they debate and argue about issues concerning foreign policy and international events. While conferences are held all over the world, the Acalanes delegation tends to stick to local conferences such as Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Stanford, and Berkeley.

A Model UN conference consists of two main parts, committees and general assembly. In general assembly, all the delegate nations assemble to state their presence. After that, the real fun begins. The general assembly then splits into smaller, pre-assigned committees. In these committees, students take on various topics such as nuclear proliferation, terrorism, and biological warfare. They argue, debate, caucus, and



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

strategize as to how they can get their resolutions passed into international law. As representatives of a nation, it is the student's job to accurately defend what their countries authentic positions would be. While ideally students would try to stay close to national policy, Sekhon notes that "people try to stick to policy but generally end up promoting their own views."

On the whole, according to Sekhon, "Model UN is an accumulation of bright, exciting, and interesting people who have an innate passion to change the world for the better." Having had a tremendous amount of success in the past with quite a few conference best delegation awards and more than its fair share of gavels (the highest individual honor possible), Model UN continues to grow and prosper as it heads towards the future.

Youth and Government is another debate-oriented club. In Youth and Government, students focus on issues concerning the state of California and its political system.

While the Acalanes Youth and Government delegation is smaller in size than Model UN, its goals are similar. Youth and Government's main purpose, according to club president, Chris Kinney, is to "help students understand the governmental system and present it in a fun way."

If Youth and Government's goal is to present an accurate picture of California politics, they certainly do a spectacular job at it. At its main conference in Sacramento, delegates use the actual California Assembly floor, a privilege that only Youth and Government holds. The main part of the program features mock legislation. In mock legislation, delegations come to Sacramento with pre-written bills ready for submission. After being introduced onto the legislative floor, delegates battle it out, debating, arguing, pulling favors, and eventually voting. Youth and Government, however, unlike Model UN, takes the political system one step further. Youth and Government includes not only the legislators, but also lobbyists, pages, and media personalities (they run their own newspaper and television program). There is also a judicial program set up where delegates, acting as the California Supreme Court (using the actual Supreme Court chambers), run a mock trial arguing the legality and illegality of laws.

Even though Freshman are not allowed to join the program, Youth and Government continues to be very popular, especially at neighboring schools, Campolindo and Las Lomas. While Acalanes has not enjoyed the rapid success of its counterparts, they still remain optimistic for the future.

ACALANES BLUEPRINT OPINION



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BLUEPRINT EDITORIAL

Acalanes: AP, Honors and Tunnel Vision

Acalanes High School is beginning to resemble a factory. Eighth graders graduate from Stanley into Acalanes and four years later graduate from Acalanes into the Ivy League. It seems as though high school has become for some nothing but a mere stepping stone on the way to a college.

The Social Studies department is an obvious example of the meteoric rise of Advanced Placement classes. Four years ago, only one advanced history course existed at Acalanes. Now we have three, with only the freshmen unable to take an AP history class.

But too often, students have very little or absolutely no interest in the actual subject taught in the AP or Honors class. They are enrolled in the AP class simply to add it to their college transcript.

With the exception of a few genuinely interested kids, most AP students seem to be only memorizing textbook concepts and spitting them back out for standardized tests. Most could tell you the difference between a free-market, constitutional democracy and an authoritarian, military dictatorship but none of them would recognize an army coup in this country if it came up and bit them in the rump.

And whatever happened to intellec-

tually stimulating classes that don't require two-hours of homework a night? Some of this year's seniors and juniors (as well as several *Blueprint* staffers) took a class freshmen year called Con-

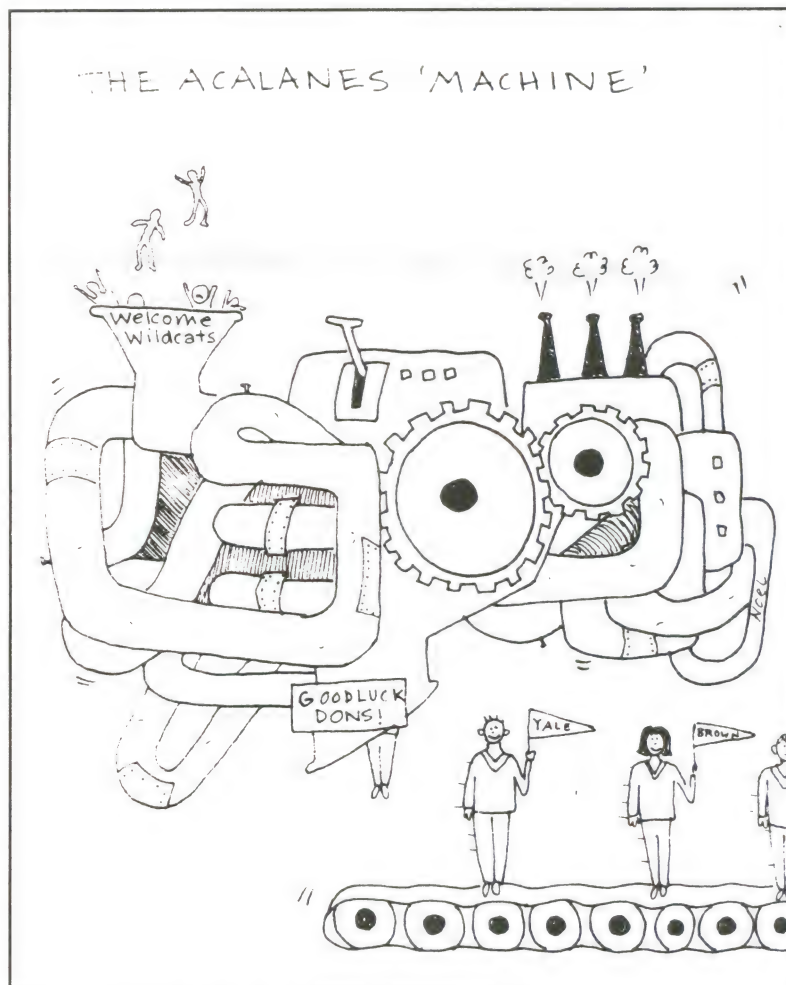
The class was eliminated at the conclusion of the '97-'98 school year, because of "dropping enrollment." The fact that the class was tucked away in the back of the course book, not men-

tioned by the visiting counselors at Stanley, and only offered to freshmen definitely played some role in this decline. But it seems a little odd that the demise of Issues and Tech coincided perfectly with the creation of AP Government/Economics, which McAlister now teaches in the place of Issues and Tech.

Students who have developed a "tunnel-vision" of high school as a place where the only thing that matters is getting into a good college should take a step back and view the big picture. True, it is important to get a college degree and succeed in life, but the all-out mentality of nonstop stressing and studying is not one which will bring happiness later in life.

The school's administration should encourage individuality, not conformity, in students. Looking back ten years after

graduation and realizing you spent high school trapped in AP classes will not make for enjoyable memories. Our curriculum should offer courses to students that will benefit not just their transcripts, but their minds as well.



Blueprint Illustration/Victoria Yu

temporary Issues and Technology. The class, taught by the always-thought-provoking Michael McAlister, was a lively forum for discussion of issues facing the world as well as those facing teens in today's society.

HANNAH AND FLAK TALK BACK

What Ever Happened To Senior Year?

By Andria Flakoll
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Sooner or later, every student is advised to enjoy high school and above all don't rush senior year. This advice is like a commandment passed down to generation after generation, but lately as we approach the millennium it seems harder than ever to fulfill.

It seems that as college admission standards become more demanding each year, so does a teenager's stress level. Nowadays, high school more closely resembles a competitive job market than a place to grow and learn.

When students ask their counselors how they should best qualify themselves for the college race, counselors inevitably say take on everything imaginably possible; that's translated into "everything a teenager can handle while keeping themselves mentally sane."

The truth of the matter is that a teenager shouldn't have to perform miracles in high school. After all, we're just kids, not production machines designed to handle sports, volunteer work, jobs, and AP classes, just to name a few.

That is just some of what it takes to get into a reasonably good college these days, and kids are brainwashed into performing this feat since freshmen year. Now don't get me wrong, school is a learning environment; it's not the military.

Every student should leave high school with happy healthy memories, not nightmares. Take the month of October for example. For seniors it's their final homecoming--ever. But some 12th graders never were seen at any of the Homecoming activities.

Rather, they were at home, haunted by the fear of college applications, SAT

scores, and AP classes. And for what you ask? Only their future. A future that depends upon college. Did anyone ever think there'd come a time in life when you'd say, "Please let me go to school! I really really want to learn this time?"

College is what really matters. You actually learn to learn, but does that have to mean that high school has to be like boot camp, the hell that prepares you for the real thing? I wouldn't be surprised if someone in the graduating class of 2000 published their doctoral dissertation on the medical phenomenon of "Senioritis." There's an epidemic of it, and we haven't even finished the first quarter.

It's high time that educators reevaluate the true meaning of high school, starting with why kids are pushed to their breaking point just to be given the chance to keep learning.

Homecoming Just Doesn't Hit Home

By Hannah Hens-Piazza
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Homecoming—a time for members of each class to unite through sports, skits, and contests against the other classes. And the goal of the Homecoming week.....to uh, *win* Homecoming.

Winning Homecoming provides about five minutes of joy and celebration to the class that triumphs, but then it's all over. The week leading up to the often-predictable announcement is where the true class uniting and fun goes on.

Instead of ending the class unity after the week and falling back into out ever-prevalent social cliques, I suggest that we find a way to unite even further....and maybe even for a more substantial cause.

There is so much creative, constructive energy and teamwork that go into designing and building the floats,

writing and practicing the skit, and learning the dances for the lip sync. Then what? We perform the lip sync once, we perform the skits once, we parade the floats down Mt. Diablo Blvd. once, and after that we destroy the floats.

All that energy and spirit is great, but maybe we could put our efforts to more use. Since we have tons of people gathering to build floats, why don't we save the floats after the parade and hold more parades in front of senior citizens' homes? Or taking the idea a step further, we could make the floats out of a sturdier material and then donate them after the parade to a day care center in a poor community. That would make four new structures a year for various day care centers or elementary schools.

There are uses for the skits too. We could perform them at senior citizens' homes. We could design puppet shows

based on our class themes to perform at homeless shelters for children.

In addition to building on the current Homecoming activities, we could create some new ones. Ideas? A contest to see which class can bring in the most canned goods for a food drive. A class-uniting day of making lunches and delivering them to homeless people. A contest to see who can build the best play structure for underprivileged children's home or school. There is so much good that could potentially come out of all the seemingly fun-only activities we take part in during Homecoming.

And the less exclusive the activities are, the more likely people are going to want to be a part of all the fun. That's what Homecoming's all about, right? Coming together?

To the junior, sophomore, and freshman classes at Acalanes, I say change the process. Keep the fun, but make Homecoming a truly worthwhile event.

CITIZEN SAM

The Ticking Population Bomb

By Sam Cunningham
Opinion Editor

An important event in history occurred Tuesday, Oct. 16, 1999--the world's six billionth person was born.

While this event may seem important now, it pales when we consider that by 2050, the human population is expected to have long since eclipsed this figure. Estimates range anywhere from 7.3 to 10.7 billion people living on Earth by the middle of next century.

The fact that population growth in and of itself is occurring at such an astonishing rate is relatively unimportant. What is dangerously important is where it is occurring. Between now and 2050 (when population is predicted to stabilize), the United Nations believes that roughly 95% of expected growth will occur in the Third World. The number of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America will grow at overwhelming rates. Mexico will balloon from 97 million people to 150 million; Nigeria, 107 million to 281 million; Indonesia, 209 million to 286 million; and India, 966 million to 1.4 billion.

In sharp contrast to the exploding populations of the developing world, the industrialized countries of the West will experience only small increases in size, or even no growth at all. It is also feasible that the birth rate in some of the wealthy nations could even fall below the 2.1 children per woman rate necessary to maintain population stability. This development will make the wealthy, advanced nations of Europe, North America and Japan an even smaller minority on the globe. By 2050, the developed countries will compromise only a slim 12% of Earth's population, but control upwards

of 80% of the world's wealth if present proportions stay the same.

The population explosion in the Third World on one hand and the

At the heart of this coming conflict will be the young people of Earth. Almost three-billion people under the age of 25 are alive on Earth today, the vast majority residing in the Third World. The economic forecast for them does not look good. The opportunities for education in countries burdened to the point of collapse by poverty, foreign debt and disease will be almost nonexistent. With the exception of perhaps a few Indian/East Asian technology workers and a handful of other specialists, it is likely the vast majority of the Third World's teeming masses will be restricted in skill to basic manual labor.

But it is a well-known fact that the capitalist economy's need for unskilled labor will be far outstripped by the number of available workers. Human labor may become the world's cheapest commodity, due simply to the sheer volume of able-bodied people. Contrary to developments in nineteenth-century Western countries, there will be no pressure to elevate the wages or conditions of "first-generation" Third World workers. For example, any attempt by textile workers in the Phillippines to improve their situation will cause corporate producers to move production to "second generation" countries like Vietnam, where industrialization has not yet occurred, and any wage is better than starving. The fact that

overpopulation and transportation technology have created such a widely-accessible labor pool will almost surely keep workers' wages down permanently. But it does not matter, as the difference between work and unemployment will be barely noticeable.

And the poor of the Third World will know they are poor. Unlike past
continued on following page



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

stabilized growth and disproportionate resource possession of the West on the other have clearly defined the line between the "haves" and the "have-nots" on Earth. The tremendous growth of developing countries has more or less sewn the seeds of confrontation between the advanced, wealthy countries of the developed world and the impoverished, overcrowded nations of the Third World.

LEADERSHIP

When Leaders Were Leaders

By Heather Klurfeld**Entertainment Editor**

"Real leaders are ordinary people with extraordinary determination."—*Anonymous*

Leaders should reflect the values and ethics that we cherish in our society. They should be upright and law-abiding individuals. They should have integrity. They should always put the interests of the persons they represent over their own, often parochial interests. Unfortunately, in our cynical day and age, there are few leaders who reflect these basic values. It is shameful to witness how the definition of a leader has been debased.

In the past, a leader was the selfless person who sought to inspire others by his example. His agenda was a "profile in courage". He did the right thing, regardless of the often corrupting influences of special interests. Favors were not granted unless they were truly merited. This was the genius of America, where advancement was based on personal achievement, rather than the accident of birth.

Today's leaders are arbitrarily appointed. Elections are based upon political connections and personal advancement.

Corruption, not democracy, now reigns. Political appointments should be based upon skill, not popularity. Political appointments should be based upon anything but a few inside connections and a tyranny of the minority. It's evident that, to gain office, all one needs is a few friends in high places.

We are taught that leaders work for the benefit of a group, not for their personal gain or self-aggrandizement. This standard has been lost in our corrupt political arena. I believe if the majority of the group feels a decision made was deleterious, obviously the decision made was an incorrect one and did not benefit the group as a whole. Society needs strong leaders who know how to motivate us by their example, not incompetent people who represent narrow interests.

Once a person is given the role of the leader, he should fulfill his duties. The leader should guide the community and delegate the work responsibly, with the leader taking a larger portion of the work. Leaders make mistakes. The first time it is the leader's fault; the second time it is the community's fault for failing to prevent the same mistake. Don't be

suckered.

The word of a leader is like the word of God. With that in mind, the promise of a leader should be followed like the Golden Rule. Regrettably, today their anthem is the Gilded Rule. If they promise that it's going to rain cats and dogs, I'm going to invest in a collection of leashes. If they say that they will work for the people and be honest and fair, I expect that they will eventually have amnesia.

I propose that today's leader's take a look at the mess they've created and start cleaning up their acts. If leaders are incompetent, they should be removed. Why waste the space? Let us not forget absenteeism. What type of leaders are these? I don't know which is the lesser evil, an ineffective leader of a chronically absent leader. It's unpleasant either way.

I feel that leaders have betrayed us. They have led us into a fool's paradise, rather than a bountiful garden. Their judgment is blinded, their pockets are lined with the lucre of special interests, and the needs of the people are being neglected. I'm disgusted.

(Remember to vote on November 2.)

SAM CITIZEN (CONTINUED)

Continued from previous page...

situations, in which the impoverished of society had little or no economic standard of comparison, the masses of the overpopulated developing world will know they live in extreme poverty. The media are penetrating deep into the Third World with images of healthy, wealthy people drinking soda, driving fat-cat cars and wearing trendy clothing. The underclass of Asia, Africa and Latin may be poor, but not poor enough to stop television from reaching them. And as they watch Western television commercials hyping McDonald's and CD players, it would only seem natural that an overwhelming feeling of resentment and jealousy will fill the

ranks of the Third World poor.

The corrupt government, static economy and weak social fabric of the developing world will simply not be able to provide for their people in the next century. And history shows that desperate times call for desperate measures. As natural resources grow scarcer and scarcer and the Earth becomes more and more crowded, it is predictable that the rift between the two worlds will widen and tensions will rise.

We may see the Western countries establish a fortress system in which they exist as "have" nations and form islands of stability and wealth in a world with burgeoning populations, collapsing infrastructure and rampaging disease. Or the advanced nations may be forced to fight

to keep their wealth and power if violently confronted by the desperate Third World. It is also possible, though not likely, that the human race will work through its economic and population problems without hatred or violence.

There are no easy answers to the problem of overpopulation. Either birth rates will have to fall or death rates will have to rise. There is no other way to reduce population. Which option will be pursued, and how, is impossible to predict at this point, as the path the world will take is still an open question. But no matter what happens in the future, the arsing situation on Earth will be, as President Franklin D. Roosevelt told the generation facing World War Two, "a rendez-vous with destiny."

EVOLUTION VS CREATIONISM

Kansas Schools: Time To Evolve

By Nathalie de Leon*News Editor*

Something has gone horribly wrong with the far right in America.

A group that was initially the foremost protector of personal liberties and rights (much moreso than the ACLU) is increasingly leaning towards the regulation of what we teach in school. A First Amendment issue that bubbled up in the Bible Belt boiled over this summer—should we teach creationism in public schools?

The debate has been an on-and-off hot topic since the 1925 Scopes trial when the teaching of evolution was forbidden from classrooms and creationism was required. Since then, there have been major debates in the 60's, 70's, and most recently, in 1987 when the Supreme Court ruled that the teaching of creationism could not be requisite curriculum.

This time, however, the religious right knew how to get their way. They didn't attack the morality of teaching evolution as near-fact, but rather the practice of teaching a theory that they contended was severely flawed. Instead of mandating the teaching of creationism in the classroom, they got rid of evolution. They argued that evolution was "just a theory" and shouldn't be taught because, in their opinion, it does not lie on sound scientific proof, simply because it has not been directly observed. Evolution is just a theory (hence the title "The Theory of Evolution"), but so is most of science. When we refuse to teach theories, we leave out the fundamentals of scientific knowledge.

It would be easy enough to claim separation of church and state, but the rabid rightists couldn't be brushed off that facilely this time. The Kansas School Board decided to get rid of evolution in the classroom.

The decision did not just reflect an infringement on the separation of church and state. It challenged almost everything we teach in science today. On the basis of the Kansas School Board's decision, we should stop teaching every theory under review in science. No one has actually seen an electron or a proton, but does that mean we should stop teaching the atomic theory? Did

the atomic bomb work because God willed it to or because man made it to? Inferential science as a whole is under siege.

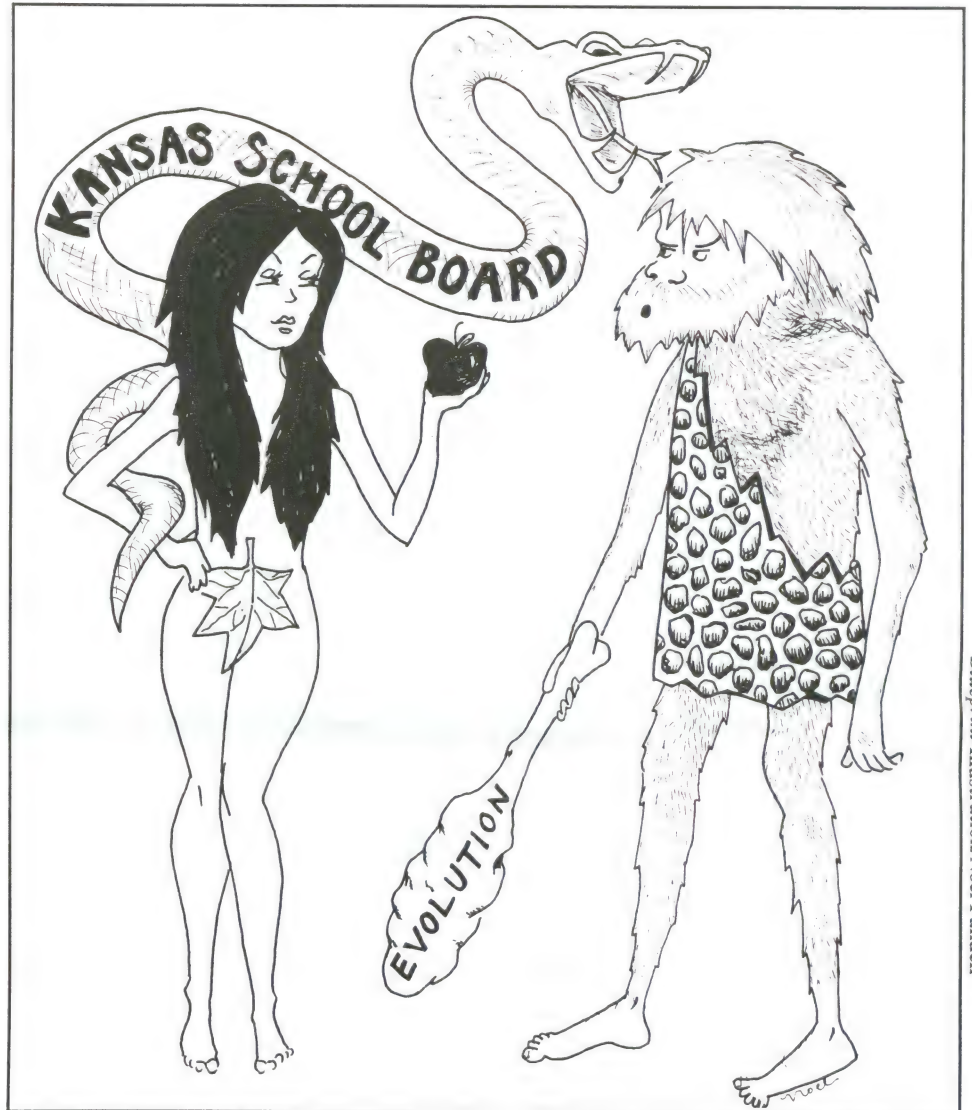
Maybe someday schools will stop teaching gravity. It is, after all, just Newton's theory. Perhaps we should stop taking science altogether. The barrage of unproved theories might warp our malleable little minds.

The creationists were not really concerned with the validity of school curriculum. They were concerned about the underrepresentation of their own religion in school. Following this view, should we then begin to teach all that their dogma dictates?

In the end, everyone loses. First, the

regulation of curriculum should not even take place at the state level to the specificity of deciding on what theories to teach. The local school boards and administrations are much more efficient than higher level government (a tenet of the right that was conveniently forgotten in this issue.) Second, the students miss out on an opportunity to take a well-founded scientific theory and judge for themselves.

Ultimately, the religious right is taking the course of the Democrats that advocate strong central government; they want to protect us from our own thoughts.



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

PRO/CON

To Be or Nor To Be: Celebrity Politicians

Are Movie Stars and Pro Wrestlers Fit To Run America?

By James Sherwood

Feature Editor

A barrage of celebrities has recently joined the political scene, and the American people don't know whether to accept or reject them. Jesse Ventura, Donald Trump, Oprah Winfrey, and Warren Beatty are just a few of the names considering a run for presidential timber. At first glance we say these men are only celebrities, not leaders, and certainly not political leaders. But if you look at it from a different point of view, there are some positives to celebrity politicians.

At the very least, these candidates are going to shake things up in what has become a very drab, political world. Voter turnouts are the lowest our country has seen in eight decades.

The average citizen is bored, and near comatose with all the scandal and corruption that engulf politics today. Take the frontrunners for mayor of San Francisco. These idiots are so busy filming commercials and digging up dirt for insults they can't even concentrate during their debates. If these leaders are suppose to improve an entire city then why are they so caught up in constant mud-slinging. Many feel these new celebrities are going to turn politics into a circus. I hate to break it to you, but the circus came to town long before we did.

Main-party politicians are so worried about what is politically correct that they often lose sight of the real issues at hand. In recent months, George W. Bush reniged on his previous pro-life stance, floundering on the issue in front of reporters, saying he thought abortion was immoral, but that he would never illegalize it, in an attempt to please both sides. Gore, on the other hand, will never give discrete policies because he is too afraid of offending anyone. Or maybe he is just a cardboard cut-out.

This new group of celebrities/politicians is here to turn things around. Ventura, the governor of Minnesota, has been quoted denouncing religion and asked to be reincarnated as a bra. He obviously has made a fool of himself and lost a significant amount of votes, but who cares? At least we have a politician who speaks his mind and is prepared to suffer the consequences.

Another side of this issue is the fact that these newcomers are giving more and more people a voice. This country and many others for that matter have always been controlled by a group of elitists at the top of the food chain, and these celebrities are beginning to break down those barriers. I admit that the normal, working class citizen is far from the status of Donald Trump, but the point is that he will bring in new faces and fresh ideas.

I don't think our country should be run by former wrestlers, but at the present it is run by proffesional mud-slingers and scandal mongrols.

By Lauran Gong

Staff Writer

For years actors have portrayed senators and presidents on the big screen, but now some are turning fantasy into reality.

Scandals such as Clinton's Monica Lewinsky incident have taken the attention away from important issues and turned the political arena into a wrestling ring. The election of WWF star Jesse Ventura as the governor of Minnesota depicts how profanity and violence is commended in our society.

With the recent speculations of Arnold Schwarzenegger running for Governor of California, and Warren Beatty running for President, the line between politics and entertainment has become hazy.

Movie stars in today's society are worshiped like Gods. They play a daily role in people's lives yet are nothing more than entertainers. The characters actors play on TV or in the movies represent little of a person's inner character. Actors, by their very nature, pretend to be something they're not. They attract attention from their good looks or style, but their merit or intelligence is rarely questioned.

With movie stars running for office, voters might be distracted by the glitz and glamour of the candidates and forget the real issues. People may vote for their favorite stars blindly without considering the important issues, as nonchalantly as changing the channel on the TV.

The sudden interest in the turn from stardom to politics also brings the actor or actress's motives into question. There reason for entering government could be solely because of interest, but a more likely cause is entirely prompted by publicity they hope to gain.

Politicians are usually professionals with a degree in law. Actors generally have no experience in government other than what they have played in movies. Though they may be passionate about certain issues, their knowledge is most likely limited.

What the country really needs is a person of solid beliefs who is not only respected for the clothes they wear or the movies they've been in, but for what they hope to accomplish in office.

It is a fact that people are inclined to certain others just because of the way they look. Actors and actresses have enough glamour to attract many different voters just on the fact they dress well or they look good in a bathing suit. Others might be attracted to the fictional characters actors have played on TV or in the movies. Harrison Ford may have played an influential president in "Air Force One," yet its questionable wether he would be a good president in real life.

So if the Terminator runs for governor of California in the next elections, mine and hopefully many others will be able to disregard his stardom and turn to the ballot box with hasta la vista baby.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT ENTERTAINMENT

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HALLOWEEN PICKS

Trick? Or Treat? (Whichever You Prefer...)

By Katie Burroughs

Staff Writer

October 31 has rolled around once again.

For many of us the era of Superman suits, Cinderella gowns, and pointy witch hats has ended. Do you remember when the old lady asked you last year, "Aren't you a little old to be trick-or-treating?" you decided that next year you would box up the costume and place it in the attic? After all, you knew it was a bad sign when you dressed up as Robin Hood and everyone mistook you for the Jolly Green Giant. So, this year you are floundering for ideas. No problem. To assist you on this spooky holiday, I have created a list of 10 things to do....and 10 things NOT to do:

Ten Ideas for a Safe Halloween:

1. Offer to escort your little sibling and his/her other munchkin pals to gain brownie points with Mom and Dad (especially with New Year approaching...)

2. Break out the map and visit the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose. This 100-room mansion is filled with one-way doors, boarded-off rooms, staircases that lead to nowhere, and howling spirits.

3. Place the Live105 number on your speed dial and call every four minutes for three days prior to Halloween to get tickets to their Boo-Bomb Concert.

4. Offer to pass out mini Snickers and Skittles bags to the children in your neighborhood and, in between doorbell rings, munch on the candy.

5. Hop on BART and head into the San Francisco to see all the freaky, urban enthusiasts.

6. Put on a Haunted House and charge

four dollars per kiddie. Pasta noodles make great teacher brains. Peeled grapes can serve as lizard eyeballs. You'll rack in the big

Scream. Scream 2.

8. Visit Six Flags and ride rollercoasters until the thought of candy sounds totally unappealing.

9. Throw a pumpkin-carving party with your friends. Get into a pumpkin-gut fight and splatter the gooky slime all over each other.

10. Give up on the alternatives. Break out the Tweety Bird costume. Maybe if you hunch over, no one will notice you. As a plus, you'll end up with enough sugar to last you until December.

Ten Things NOT to do (unless you have a fetish for police cars):

1. Buy twelve cartons of eggs and take revenge on your math teacher for the progress report he sent to your parents.

2. Steal pumpkins from the bitter neighbor who collects shotguns.

3. Ambush herds of children with Silly String and snatch their candy-filled pillow cases (it beats putting on the Tweety Bird costume).

4. Drive through Burton Valley playing the game "Ten Points for Hitting a Pedestrian."

5. T.P.

6. Smash. Anything.

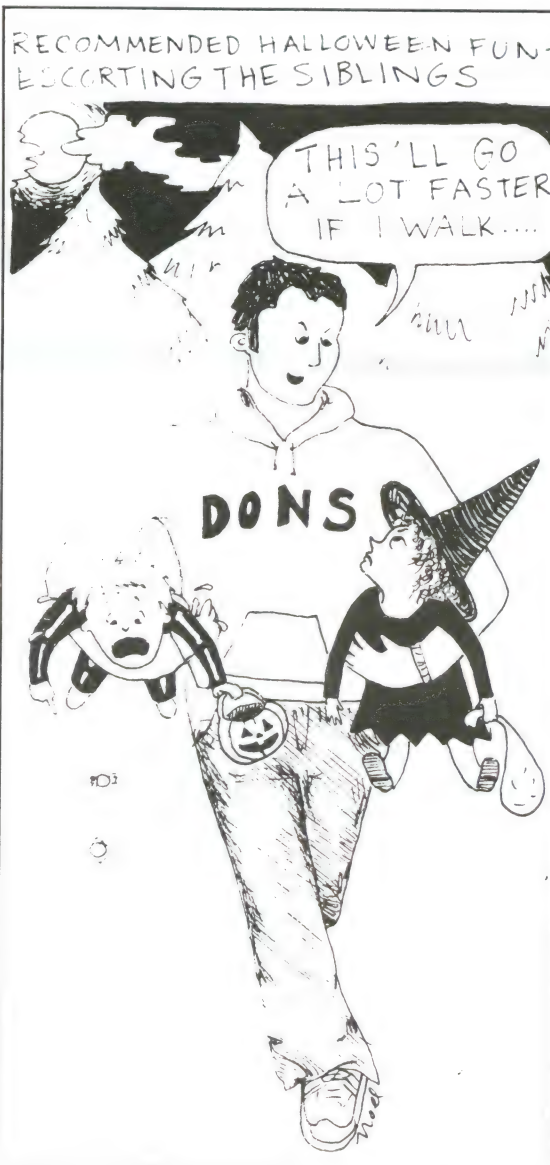
7. Light firecrackers in the candy dish, causing little children to lose fingers.

8. Steal. Anything.

9. Attack. Anyone.

10. Egg a policeman while wearing a Frankenstein mask, assuming you can run faster than him.

So remember, if you end up taking a ride in the back of a police car this Halloween, it wasn't because I didn't offer you any alternatives!



bucks.

7. You. Your friends. A Blockbuster card. Freddy Cruger. Silence of the Lambs.

HOLLYWOOD IN POLITICS

Hollywood Takes On A New Role

By Charlie Massie
Staff Writer

The American public is sick and tired of the utterly dull situation on Capitol Hill. People have given up on trying to elect a government that actually works for the benefit of everyone. Without another Clinton White House sex scandal what is the average American to do. We need something to fill the entertainment gap that was left once the scandal had ended, a new party, the Entertainment Party.

When the Blockbuster movie *Predator*, featuring Jesse Ventura, stormed into theaters no one in his or her right mind thought that the gun-slinging, tobacco chewing, commando would ever become involved in politics. The same audience would have given a rather similar conclusion to the same man in silly underpants who danced around in the wrestling rings of the WWF. Yet, despite all this, Jesse Ventura conquered the political world and emerged as the entertainment governor of Minnesota.

His election, possibly one of the greatest failures in the entire history of democracy, could be the start of something great. Even though the majority of Minnesota's citizens may consider his election a mistake because, in a recent interview for *Playboy*, Ventura publicly called organized religion a "sham," they are actually missing the mark. People want to be entertained.

The entertainment industry is the solution for the many Americans who have become bored without stained dresses and an ugly intern?

Imagine for a second that all of the Democrats and Republicans were flushed down the toilet and out to sea, foreign policy was thrown away, no one really cared about Medicare, or social security. They were all real zzzzzz.... snoozers. The country then proceeded to hold elections and all of the

officials were chosen from the ever so popular Entertainment Party, a party that really knew how to party.

Leading this new and highly enlightened country would have to be none other than the exercise king himself, Richard Simmons. Although there would be mandatory leg lifts for every person in the country, and political debates would be decided by who could dress themselves the best in Armani, a lot might be accomplished.

President Simmons's first task would be to appoint an entirely new secretary. The Secretary of Job Positioning, Monica Lewinsky, would be appointed to inform many of the lower cabinet officials how to perform their duties most effectively.

Next would have to be the Backstreet Boys for Congress. Their nylon jumpsuits would fit right in with President Simmons's platform and whenever there were protests over unfair working conditions the Boys would come running to mediate by asking the workers, why do "you want it that way?"

Just imagine the debate over gun control. As melodies from the latest songs protested for more gun regulations, President Simmons would be screaming for a veto because the Back Street Boys' jump suits didn't match their shoes.

To all of those eager American citizens

worried about protecting our borders, you have nothing to fear. Our mighty and powerfully amusing army is led by the ever so combative Jerry Springer. Don't mind the fact that all of his generals are sissies in pink tutus, they will still be able to throw chairs at anyone who dares challenge their authority and parties for those who surrendered. Besides, we would all like to know in advance who is really going to win.

As the technology sector of the economy busts into high gear, the countries corporate relations committee headed by David Hasslehoff and Pamela Anderson will be assigned the task of keeping Silicon Valley running at peak efficiency. They will give funds to aspiring corporations involved in silicon weapons technology.

Do not fret about the legal system, our new Attorney Generals from *Rage Against the Machine* would spread peace and harmony throughout the land. Even though all punishments would involve smashing a guitar over a criminal's head.

Finally, as a grand act in revamping the country. The entertainment party would rewrite the Constitution as follows. "We the people in order to form a more amusing union, established humor, and to insure domestic entertainment, do establish this Constitution of the Entertained United States of America."

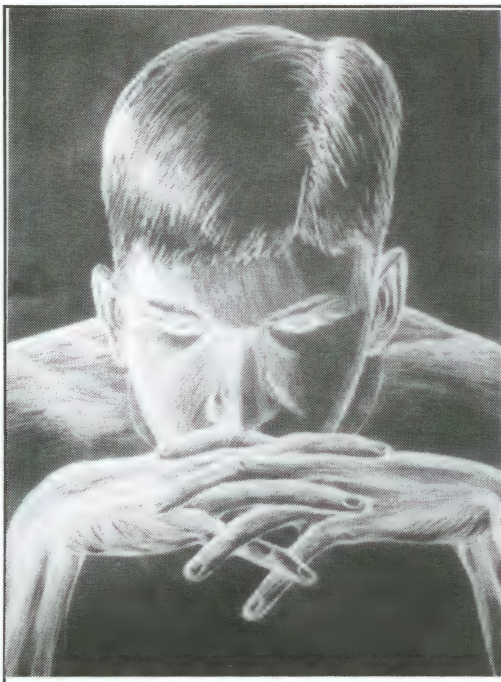


Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

FINE ARTS

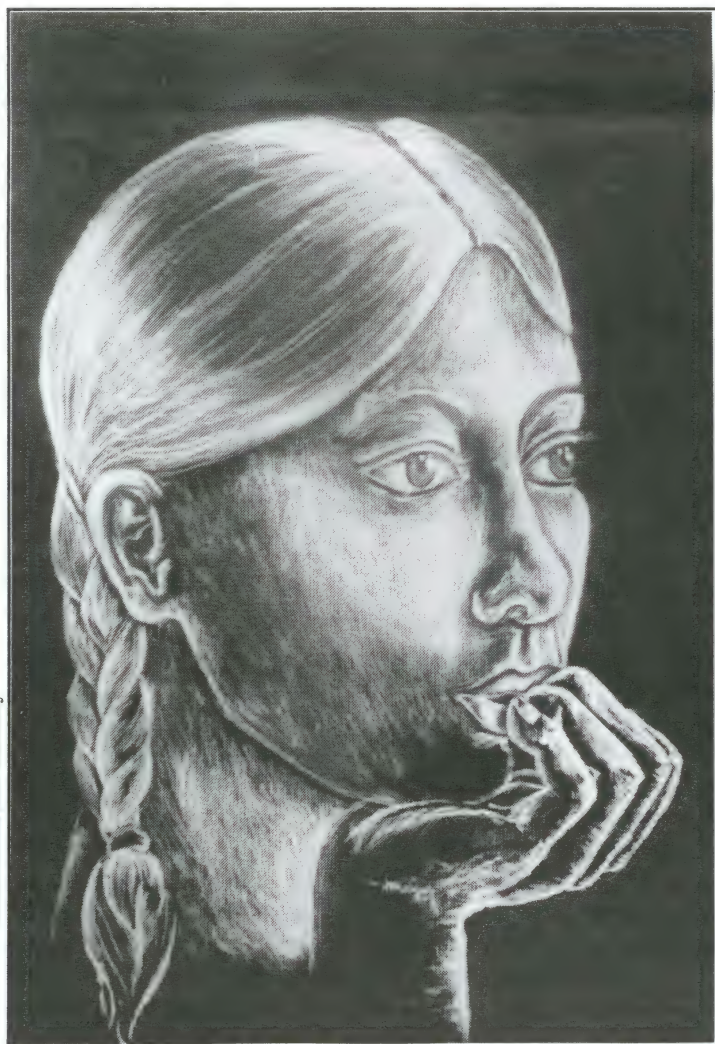
Fine Arts

Illustration/Erin Riordan

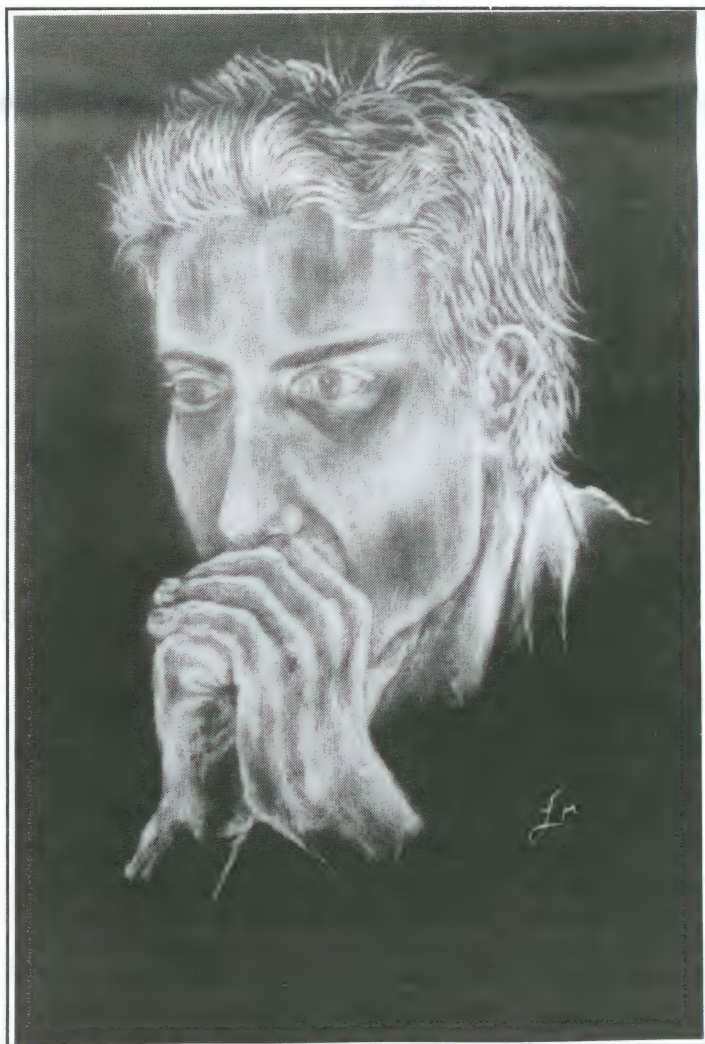


"The concept of the project was interesting. We learned to put in the lights instead of shading in the darks."
-Lisa Smithey

Illustration/Lisa Smithey



Illustration/LM



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MOVIE REVIEWS

Three Kings Will Drive You Crazy

By Elisabeth Geier
Staff Writer



Three Kings Grade: A

(George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg) **R**
Screenwriter/director David O. Russell, known for his twisted comedies *Spanking the Monkey* and *Flirting With Disaster*, projects himself into new, controversial territory through his new film *Three Kings*. One of the only films that depicts the Gulf war, *Three Kings* bears the responsibility of presenting a much-disputed conflict in a way that will both entertain and enlighten a wide audience. Russell handles this difficult task quite well and, regardless of whether the audience ultimately agrees with his opinion or not, his intriguing take on modern warfare is absolutely fascinating.

The Gulf War has ended, and Sergeant Troy Barlow (Mark Wahlberg) and his friends, Sergeants Chief Elgin (Ice Cube) and Conrad Vig (Spike

Jonze), haven't seen much action. When they discover a map leading to a bunker which contains goods that Saddam Hussein has stolen from Kuwait, the men gear up for adventure. Under the leadership of the cynical, smart-mouthed Major Archie Gates (George Clooney), the small band of soldiers sets out to retrieve the booty. Their primary plan is to go for the gold and nothing else. This plan changes, though, when the men come across a village of Iraqi people in desperate need of help. Soon the soldiers' selfish interests are replaced by an urgent need to help the Iraqi civilians. Barlow asks Gates, "What happened to priority?" The simple response: "It just changed."

Russell's script alleges that, during the Gulf War, the United States did not offer enough support to Iraqi civilians. It is suggested that President George Bush, after encouraging the Iraqi people to rise up against Hussein, did not provide the back-up they would have needed in order to be successful. By fol-

lowing the soldiers in their quest to help the oppressed people, *Three Kings* forces the viewer to question whether the U.S. was really as successful as it claimed to be in the Gulf War.

The actors in *Three Kings* all give excellent performances as jaded soldiers confronted by humanity, most notably Mark Wahlberg. Wahlberg, whose much-talked-about performance in *Boogie Nights* was interesting but overrated, is quickly becoming one of Hollywood's promising leading men. His Barlow is both a tough All-American hero and a sensitive, socially aware intellectual; He's a soldier desperate to do what's right but conflicted over what exactly "right" means in the midst of a war.

Through Russell's innovative writing and stirring performances by a promising group of young actors that flourish under his direction, *Three Kings* is a fast-paced emotional ride. It is at times painful to watch, but impossible to tear one's eyes from.

Drive Me Crazy



(Melissa Joan Hart, Adrian Greunier) **PG-13** Grade: B

Let's get one thing straight: high school comedies such as *Drive Me Crazy* are really made for all the twelve-year-old girls out there who truly believe that every high school party is like the one in last summer's hit *Can't Hardly Wait* (wouldn't that be fun?). Movie executives don't think that actual high schoolers would fall for this stuff; they aim their warm-fuzzy flicks specifically at the middle school crowd. But just because films like *Drive Me Crazy* require no deep critical thinking whatsoever doesn't mean that they aren't fun.

Melissa Joan Hart, aka *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, is Nicole, a perky prep hoping that a popular high school basketball player will ask her to an upcoming dance. She's more than hoping; she's orchestrating an elaborate plan to woo him and secure an

invitation. When Nicole's plan backfires and Basketball Boy asks a cheerleader from another school instead, she turns to her rebellious neighbor Chase (Adrian Greunier) to save her from dateless desperation.

In a completely unrealistic turnaround, Chase goes from being a cute 'n' scruffy troublemaker who hangs out with the geek brigade to shopping at the GAP and going to parties with Nicole and her in-crowd friends. Even the sixth-grade optimists viewing *Drive Me Crazy* will find it hard to believe that a guy like Chase would change his entire image overnight. Of course, Nicole is thrown into his scene a bit as well; one of the funniest moments in the film comes when she joins Chase at a punk show (featuring the Bay Area's very own punk rock group The Donnas) and throws her sweet self onto the sweaty, throbbing dance floor like she's a big fan from way back.

It would be easy to dismiss *Drive Me Crazy* as a goofy throwaway film, if not for the

engaging performances given by its lead actors. Hart is funny and likable in a role that, played by most other young actresses, would have seemed flimsy and annoying. Greunier, hot off a critically-acclaimed performance in the fantastic independent film *The Adventures of Sebastian Cole* (check it out!), is a nice alternative to the Freddie Prinze, Jr. prototypes that are so prevalent in movies lately. He shows great promise, thus it's doubtful he'll appear in any more light and airy productions like *Drive Me Crazy*.

The most important thing to keep in mind while viewing *Drive Me Crazy* is this: there was once a time when you believed that Saturday school was just like *The Breakfast Club*, that there was a Lloyd Dobler in every senior class, and that everything would come up roses, just like it does in *Pretty in Pink*. Accept *Drive Me Crazy* for what it is: an entertaining piece of fluff. It's not going to win any awards, but it sure does make for a fun Saturday night.

LOCAL BANDS

Local Bands Rock Mundane Suburbia

By Nick Allen

Staff Writer

It's Friday night in Suburbia and there isn't much to do but finish that English essay and get a little shut eye. But, then again, maybe there is. Maybe, just maybe, behind closed doors there are happenings which remain elusive to the unhip eye and ear. Where students and teens heroically battle the consuming mundaneness of the suburbs with their Marshall Amps and Les Paul guitars, detonate their hardcore, their reggae, their punk, funk, and rock sound bombs in protest and in celebration.

On the surface, Lamorinda offers little for teenagers whose interests belong more in an urban environment. Underneath the mask which is Suburbia's deceptive dullness, one may bear witness to an inception of a broad and colorful musical spectrum and budding musical talent, which adds the grit and diversity that so many culturally-deprived suburbanite teens crave.

I spoke with some of the musical mercenaries who dedicate their lives (or at least their high school careers) to combating the common notion of a one-dimensional Lamorinda. Nick Nestal, a Miramonte student, is a member of Disorderly Conduct, a steel drum group comprised of a very diverse group of students. Nick, a talented steel drum player who intends on pursuing music in college, said "We play calypso, and some reggae. We also play a little hip-hop, and some latin jazz." Disorderly Conduct's fusion of sounds can be heard all over the Bay Area, from local parties to the Concord Pavilion.

Morgan Partridge, a sophomore at Campolindo, skillfully contributes to Disorderly Conduct's laid-back Latin calypso style through his drumming. Yet, Partridge still finds time to provide the pummeling onslaught of noise for local favorite's Trisomy 21. Morgan was virtually weened on the drum set and has been active in numerous bands since fifth grade. The challenge of performing in two drastically different bands has not only forced Morgan to become a more flexible and skilled musician, but also opened his eyes to the



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

Acalanes graduate Terrell Liedstrand and senior Mike Gyulai get together and jam with their band, trying to perfect their music.

world of hardcore (hardcore punk), as well as calypso and the funkier sides of music. Although Morgan remains unsure whether he will become a professional drummer, he says, "It's cool to play the drums and get paid also, but I would never want to be a rock star or anything like that."

Dan Wright, a Junior at Acalanes, is one of three band members in Ghandara (a Buddhist word referring to a state of musical bliss). Dan, with band members John Sanke and Evan Benway, create a rock-funk hybrid with a strong emphasis on improvisation, paired with guitar lines comparable to that of the Red Hot Chili Peppers. With inspiration deriving from old Chili Peppers to his enlightening trip through Israel, Dan and his bandmates embody the free spirit and experimentalism of the student band, uninhibited by the constraints of professional musicians (even if this includes the occasional cross-dressing).

Similar in their devotion to musical freedom and open-mindedness are an up-and-coming Acalanes group currently known as the Pudnockers. The Pudnockers, comprised of Kevin Van Geem, Justin Hughes, and Mike Rogers. They have a constantly evolving and mutating style,

described by Kevin as a conglomeration of Herbie Hancock- influenced funk, punk rock, latin percussion, jazz, and the rhythmic and acidic sound of techno. Their versatility as musicians and instrumentalists (Kevin is a skilled multi-instrumentalist) has allowed them to blend these various styles to create their own unique sound.

DSR's alternative funk can be heard at the Lafayette Town Hall, Acalanes High-school, the Lafayette Community Center, and during lazy summer days at the Moraga Commons. Evan Pricco of DSR elaborated on their Moraga Commons gig, saying "We just got bored one day, so we decided to go set up our stuff and play, but the cops came and made us take it down." DSR band members include Terrell Liedstrand, a former Acalanes student, along with current Acalanes bandmates Michael Gyulai and Evan Pricco.

These purveyors of the "Lamorinda Sound" bring a vitality, which is diverse in its revelations of different styles. This "Sound" is a vehicle for the expression of the undecurrents of intensity and rebellion which build in the stifling Suburbs, and it is these individuals who are in the driver's seat.

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GIRLS' WATERPOLO

Lady Dons Dive into First Place in League

By Kristy Mayer

Staff Writer

After beating Campolindo, Alhambra, Benicia, and Miramonte, the Lady Dons went on to beat Las Lomas 4-3 in their championship game, making them League Champions for the first time ever.

Playing a fantastic home game on Tuesday, Oct. 5, the Acalanes girls water polo team beat Miramonte for the first time since water polo has been played at Acalanes, with a score of 5-4.

The score was amazingly close throughout the game, with two key goals scored by seniors Anne Olson and Sonia Lamel. Confidence in their abilities led them to a final score of 5-4.

Acalanes started the game slowly, and Miramonte scored twice in the first half. Senior Grace Woods, the Dons' goalie, prevented the Matadors from gaining a 3-0 lead. According to Acalanes' coach Mike McAlister, the goal would have been "a nail in our coffin," but Woods saved it by diving from one side of the cage to the other and blocking the shot.

The Dons came back to tie the game at 2-2 before the culmination of the first half, when Olson scored a goal. With a minute to go in the second quarter, sophomore Lindsey Jenkins-Stark scored a second goal.

Early in the third quarter, Miramonte scored their third goal, regaining the lead. After several attempts by Olson and senior Elaine Nourse to tie the game yet again, Olson, with 4:33 left in the fourth quarter, scored her second goal of the game, raising the score to 3-3.

As the fourth quarter played out, neither team was able to score and take the lead. Several players from both sides attempted shots and both the Acalanes and Miramonte teams called time-outs.

The game advanced into its first five-



Senior Lauren Wondolowski (left) and junior Robin Siegfried congratulate senior Sonia Lamel on her victorious sudden death goal in the Miramonte game.

minute overtime and several missed opportunities to score for both teams took it into double overtime.

With 2:12 left on the clock, Miramonte scored, taking a 4-3 lead over Acalanes. After one failed attempt to score, Olson, with 1:09 left in the second overtime, made a goal and tied the game at 4-4.

The game proceeded to go into a five-minute sudden death. Although the teams alternated making attempts at the goal, neither the Dons nor the Matadors were able to score and the game advanced into its second and last sudden death.

With 3:43 left, Lamel, after attempting

several shots, made one that arched in, as if in slow motion, and won the game.

Towering over all other emotions is McAlister's pride in his team. "I felt just like (General) Patten. Looking at his men who...had this indomitable spirit. They wouldn't give up."

Acalanes also won in their home game on Tuesday, Oct. 12 against Alhambra, slaughtering them with a final score of 13-3.

That game gave the team a good chance to work on its offense. Sophomore Molly Mehaffey said, "Once we got the score up that high, we were working on running a complete offense and making no mistakes."

SOCCER/TENNIS

Dons Wipe Their Cleats on the Mats

By Danielle Cooke
Staff Writer

What is the pure definition of rivalry? Could it be two teams that have battled against each other in TCAL for several years? Teams who last year came in second and first in the league by one point, whose placement in NCS came down to a penalty kick shootout and who finally met yet again in the NCS final proving they are the most powerful teams in the area and beyond. If that isn't rivalry, who knows what is.

The Dons defeated Miramonte in the NCS finals last November ranking them 21st in the nation according to *USA Today*. Miramonte was looking to get back at the Dons this year. Sept. 21, the Mats got their chance for revenge. The Dons seemed well-prepared, but ended up with a 1-1 tie. The first 20 minutes, junior goalie Ryan Mathy took control from the goal and yelled out helpful advice to his teammates. The only scare came in the 25th minute when the Mats hit the crossbar. In the 68th minute senior Paul Gillen headed the ball into the goal from a throw in by senior Bret Boudreaux. Junior Rusty Phillips controlled the midfield with his smart passes and excellent ball control. Unfortunately, the Matadors came back in the 80th minute to end the long-awaited game.

The Dons met the Mats again on Oct. 14, but this time Acalanes proved their brilliance. The Dons dominated and came out with a 3-2 win. Two of the goals were scored by senior Bret Boudreaux and the other was scored by Doug Matern. Junior Ryan Hafey stated before the game, "I definitely think we will be up for a win because it is a home game and we will be a lot more pumped then we were last game."

The Dons showed energy and kept the pace of the game high. The Mats were pressured by Boudreaux and the arrival of senior Grant Woods just fresh off an injury. If the boys can keep their attack deadly and their defense strong, they should be looking for another successful season this year.



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Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maun

Junior Joel Philpot flies by a rival Campolindo player to advance the ball against the ferocious defense. The Dons won 1-0 on Sept. 16.

TENNIS

By Hiro Kagiya
Staff Writer

Two fearless warriors enter a battle arena stained by the blood, sweat and tears of those before them, wielding cold steel instruments of destruction with the intent to kill. Slamming a small rock hard projectile at one another knowing, that in the end, only one will leave victorious.

This drama was played out three times last week by the Lady Dons tennis team against Alhambra, Campolindo and Miramonte. Unfortunately, the Dons lost to both Miramonte and Campolindo but they were able to pull off a victory against Alhambra, placing Acalanes in 5th overall.

In the first match, the Dons out hit, served, and volleyed the colossal Alhambra team pulling off a 7-2 win. The number one varsity singles player, Ashley O'Neil played a great game beating Alhambra's Kristen Manuel 6-4, 6-2. At the number two spot, Emily Corr suf-

fered an unsuspected 6-0, 6-0 loss to Lori Honda, who pulled out all the stops and steam-rolled Corr with a blitzkrieg of crisp ground strokes and powerful volleys. At number three, the Dons were able to rebound with Darcie Flansburg who was able to take control of the match from square one leaving her opponent Kristen Brandt dazed from the realization of losing 6-1, 6-1. In the number two doubles position, the dynamic duo of April Ho and Alissa Rey were able to stroke, serve and volley as one winning the game against the formidable team of Lauren See and Emily Kearns 6-3, 6-4.

In two other matches, Acalanes's arch nemesis, Campolindo, and the Miramonte team force-fed the Dons two monumental losses. In the game against Campolindo, spirits were high but victory seemed out of reach as the Dons lost a painful match 5-4. And in the game against Miramonte, the Dons were in awe of the Matadors as they were manhandled into a disgraceful 8-1 loss.

BOYS' WATER POLO

Dons Drown Fighting Against Mats

By Quinn Fitzgerald
Staff Writer

Acalanes men's water polo was overpowered by the Miramonte Matadors last Wednesday at Acalanes in a crushing defeat of 11-5.

As the sun went down behind the hills surrounding Acalanes, the once glistening pool faded to darkness leaving a team of broken players to bob in shady glum. Along with the sun went the Dons' hope of beating their arch-rivals in a regular season game.

A crowd of about 30 rowdy fans had come to see the Dons beat the school's biggest rival. Based on the individual talent of the team, many believed this was the season the Dons would beat the Mats, who have not lost a North Coast Championship in seven years. This was certainly not the case.

Although thoroughly beaten, "we went down fighting," said senior Trevor Wagner. Coach Brian Monte said after the game, "We out-played them the first quarter, but they executed their plays and we didn't."

Looking unstoppable in the opening minutes, senior Danny Holligan fired in two goals starting the game off with a bang. In the second quarter, however, the tides were turned by three demoralizing blows by Miramonte. Now trailing by four, and morale at a low, the Dons began to sink. Senior Patrick Riley said, "We stopped driving and our passing game disintegrated."

Looking defeated by the end of second quarter, the Dons put their half time break to good use. Rested and reenergized players sounded a "Go Dons" and with determination on their faces lined up at mid

tank to start the second half. Although trailing five points, a goal by Riley and another by junior Patrick Dodd gave hope for a comeback. These hopes were soon drowned by two more Matador goals. After the Dons gave up another goal, their offense hit a wall, and the struggle became hopeless.

Junior goalie Matt Saget, was asked about his performance and said, "I wasn't focused and I made a few errors." Saget, who was suffering from strep throat and was forced to miss several practices still "made some key saves," according to junior Sean Crawford.

Senior Connor Deal said after the loss, "I intend to drown the sorrows this game has caused me and stay positive" Coach Monte still believes his players stand a chance against enemy Matadors when they match up again at the league finals.



Blueprint Photo/Jaanna Dahlhauser

Senior Danny Holligan actively guards an opposing player in the Dons' disappointing 11-5 loss against Miramonte.

FOOTBALL

Acalanes Football: Pain, But No Gain

By Alex Gallo

Staff Writer

After a 28-0 loss to Benicia Friday at Acalanes, the Dons football team has lost three games in a row. A powerful Benicia running attack and many Don's mistackles were the keys to Benicia's victory.

The losses saw the Dons outscored for a combined score of 106-25 over the three games and resulted in a "piling on" controversy in the Miramonte game.

Junior DT Jeff Fong said, "We kept slipping on this grass here, and it played a factor in Joe (Bruzzone) slipping and our receivers slipping and it just made us choke play after play."

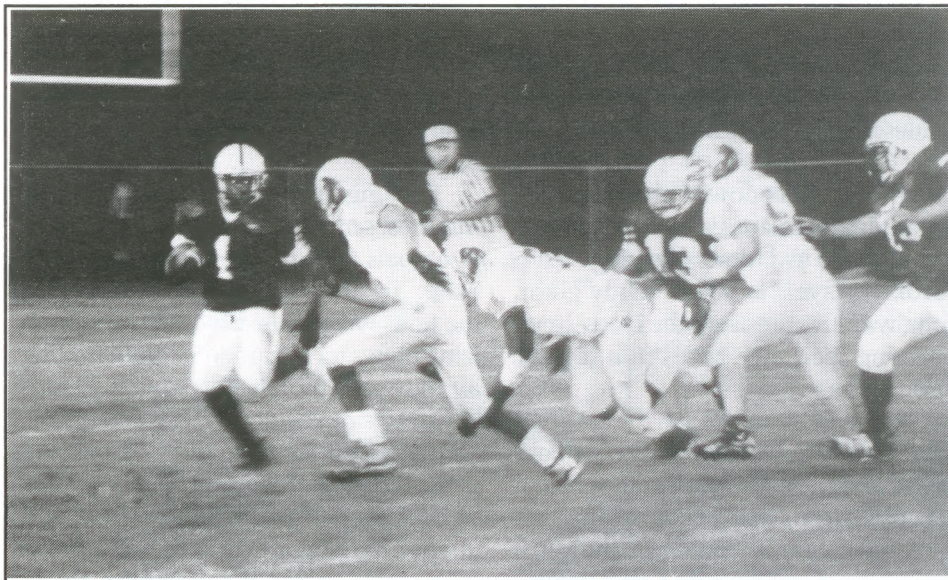
Indeed the grass did have an effect. On one Acalanes pass play, sophomore running back Nick Smith threw a long pass to a wide-open senior WR Tyler Douglas. Douglas took a few steps back to make the catch, but he slipped. If not for the muddy grass, that play would have undoubtedly resulted in a Don's touchdown. Unfortunately, the grass was there and it seemed to become a factor whenever the Dons got something going.

"Bottom line is you don't win games if you can't stop the run," said Coach Pat Smith.

In a 35-11 loss to Concord, in Pittsburgh, the Dons managed just 130 total yards on offense. Sam Salazar lead the minutemen with 6 catches for 101 yards and two touchdowns. Senior Andy Martin lead the Dons with 29 yards rushing on 13 carries. QB Joe Bruzzone's 7 yard pass to junior Justin Rohrs was the Don's only touchdown of the game. Senior Roger Curtis nailed a 23 yard field goal in the second quarter.

The Dons last loss came at the hands of Miramonte with a score of 43-14, at Acalanes. Miramonte took a 23-0 lead after the first quarter to propel them to a victory. They took their opening drive 77 yards for the touchdown. After the Dons' first series with the ball, the Matadors took only three plays to score their next touchdown with a pass from Miramonte QB Adam Smith to Andrew Blair.

The Dons then went three and out and



Blueprint Photo/Joanna Dahlhauser

Sophomore Nick Smith carries the ball in the first quarter of a disappointing Homecoming defeat against Benicia.

set up to punt. On the play, Jake Joudrey thrashed his way through the line to block the punt and send the ball backward through the end zone for the safety. This two point score gave the Matadors a 16-0 lead.

The Dons defense then stopped Miramonte's offense on the next drive to give the ball back to Acalanes. On the next drive Bruzzone's interception lead to another Matador touchdown.

Acalanes got their dignity back with two running touchdowns from sophomore, Nick Smith. The running back had 10 carries for 101 yards in the loss. Smith and Rohrs both had interceptions.

The controversial moment happened in the second half. Coach Floyd Burnsed started the second half with backup quarterback sophomore Mark Guillon. Then later in the fourth quarter, the coach re-inserted starter Adam Smith.

This reinsertion of Smith was completely unnecessary. Miramonte already held a substantial lead of 36-7. There was no way the Dons could come back, yet coach Burnsed decided to put his starting QB back in the game.

Burnsed said, "I wanted give him second half experience."

In response, Acalanes coach Pat Smith

said, "That's (expletive deleted). If he wanted to give him experience he should have put him in the 3rd quarter."

The ultimate goal each game is to score points early so you can take out your starters. Putting the starting QB back in the game when your team has already won the game is said to be piling up the score. Adding unnecessary points is not only considered unsportsmanlike but disrespectful as well.

Miramonte might be the top team in the league, but that gives them no right to be disrespectful to their opponents. Someday, playing like that will catch up to them.

When asked about future encounters between Acalanes and Miramonte Coach Smith said, "I won't forget. My players won't forget."

As to the lop-sided loss, Coach Smith said, "If we're healthy, it's a different game."

Despite the Dons hard work and "never say die" mentality, they have lost three games in a row to three different types of teams. After starting the season 2-1, they Dons are now most likely out of the playoff picture. In order for them to playing after the regular season, they not only will have to win the rest of their games, but they will need some help from the rest of the league as well.

MR. THOMAS

Thomas in Number Seven World Spot

By Myles Rush

Sports Editor

When he was not running on about socialism or running off homework Xeroxes, Ramsay Thomas found the time to run in a world championship race, and just as he succeeds in all aspects of life, he rose to the occasion. If you went back in time to the year 1959, you would see a young boy on the brink of a journey that would never cease. Thomas went out and ran his first of many races and became an instant success. Without any prior experience he won the race, and at that exact moment he knew that running was his gift in life. From then on the wins, broken records, and eminence only piled up. Thomas was the first child in the state of Maryland to run the 400 in less than 50 seconds. When he was 35 he set U.S. and National records in a number of events.

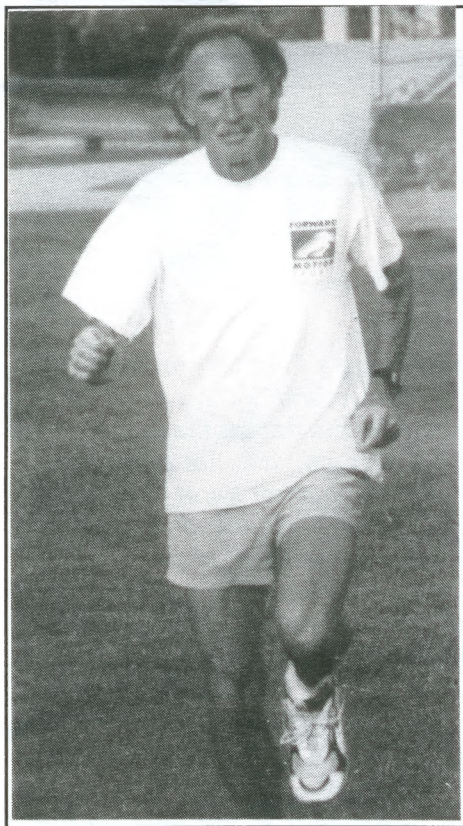
But on Aug. 10, Thomas went into the world masters track championship in En-

gland a great runner in our country, and finished the race the seventh fastest man in the world. The races were broken into age groups, and Thomas competed in the 55 to 59 age race. In the winter, he trained furiously for the U.S. indoor national championships. In the race he was on his way to attaining first place when suffered an injury and was unable to finish. For the next couple of months he could not train, and when it was time to go to England he did not have ample time to prepare.

"I don't think I ran anywhere as near as well as I could have, but I was happy to have done it at all," Thomas continues to train vigorously, running six miles every day on average, to keep himself in good condition. When asked what it is that keeps him going and makes him able to continue to flourish to new levels of greatness, Thomas said, "I have no idea what it is but I have an advantage over competitors, who I do think are physically better than me, to be more focused."

Thomas feels that one of the major keys to his success is his ability to stay focused on running. About 48 hours before a critical race, he often isn't attentive to people around him. Because of how much time he invests in teaching and running, Thomas really doesn't have time for some of the other things he would like to do. He said he would love to play on a 50-or-over soccer team, but simply does not have the time to do so.

If you were to see Thomas running, you would see the hypnotic flow that his body undergoes, his running style is so consistent and solid, that to see it is a thing of beauty. A half hour before each race Thomas eats two Tums. He doesn't wear anything out of the ordinary for each race, except for his shoes, which he says, is the key to running well. In preparation for a race, Thomas eats very little the day before and the day of the race. Thomas said that some of the reasons that he loves to run is, "At the end of the run you feel too, you physically feel good...you feel better all the rest of the day, your appetite is better, you sleep better, you know you're healthier."



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Acalanes History teacher Ramsay Thomas doubles as a professor and a world class runner.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

By Jason Ahn and Lauren Gong

Staff Writers

Bump. Set. Spike. The Acalanes volleyball team dominated their match against Las Lomas winning the match, three games to two on Oct. 12. Acalanes very felt confident entering the game against Las Lomas, after experiencing a key win against Dublin. Coming back from their loss 9-15 in the first game, Acalanes won the next two consecutive games with barely no effort. Acalanes 15, Las Lomas 15. There was a breath taking deuce battle in the third game. It was Las Lomas' last chance, and Las Lomas pulled through to win that game, 17-15. The Knights had taken an early lead of 13-7 and the pressure was on. However, the mighty lady Dons did not give up. After a series of key plays by the Lady Dons, Acalanes swept to win the last game with 8 unanswered points. The final score was 3-2 games, which gives the Lady Dons a two-game win streak.

The Acalanes volleyball team dominated their match against Dublin winning the match, three games to none on Oct. 6. Acalanes felt pretty confident entering the game against Dublin.

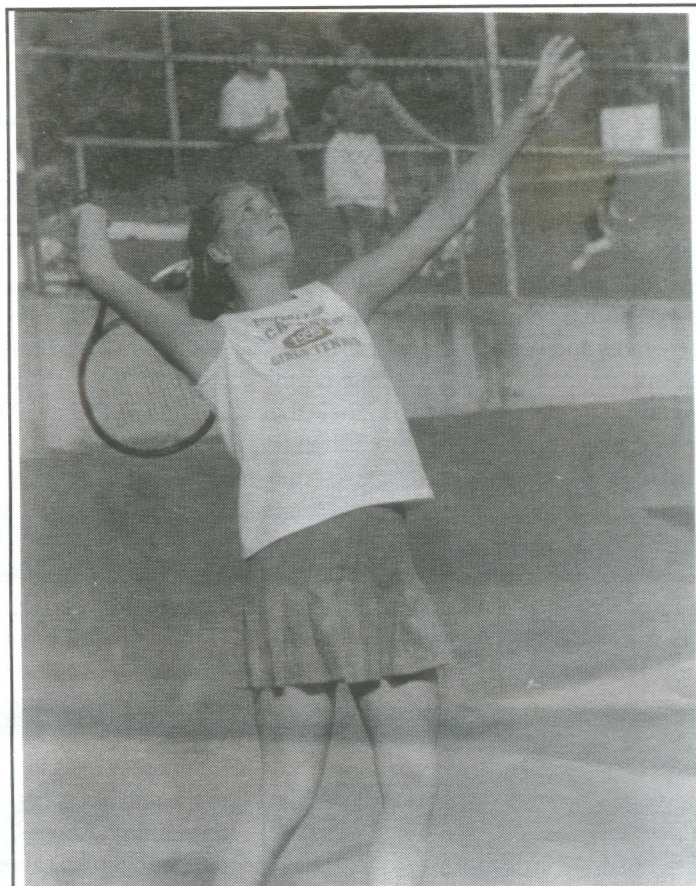
The match got off to a good start for Acalanes, who easily 15-3 in the first game. The second game ended with a decisive victory of 15-2. The team's organized bump, set, spike strategy, and the aggressive offensive play, gave Acalanes the advantage throughout the last game to 15-5. The Dublin team had a good attitude going into the game. Dublin's head coach Carol Worgull commented, "I look forward to it. We always have good games with Acalanes and we're always right there with them." Yet after experiencing a devastating loss, she had completely different view on the Acalanes team.

"Acalanes has a good team, but their attitudes are completely snotty. If I were the coach, I would be embarrassed by the players' and supporters' attitudes. Sure I'm disappointed we lost because I think we have the better team. I'll admit Acalanes has some good players," said Coach Worgull.

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

Bret Boudreaux

Senior Bret Boudreaux has played Acalanes soccer for four years, three of them on varsity, and is this Blueprint's Male Athlete of the Issue. Boudreaux is one of three captains this year, and was chosen by the players on the team because of his great leadership and skill. "Bret is a very hard-working guy—one of the hardest working guys we have, and guys tend to follow his lead," said Coach Paul Curtis. Boudreaux ignited the team fire against rival Miramonte on Oct. 15 when the Dons were down 2-1. He scored two goals to bring the Dons a 3-2 victory. He also stepped up to score a goal in a 3-0 win over Dublin and in a 2-1 victory over Las Lomas. Within the past seven games, Boudreaux has scored or assisted in six and has been like an offensive Energizer bunny for the team. "He has good speed, good endurance, keeps himself in good physical condition, and can bump and run," said Coach Curtis. He has without a doubt been a consistent force imbuing his leadership, focus, and veteran knowledge on the rest of the team.



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Emily Corr

Junior Emily Corr is this issue's Female Athlete of the Issue after having made tremendous improvements since last year. She is now playing at the top of her game for the varsity tennis team. It is her determination that got her to this point and her thirst to become a better player that has her serving and playing all aspects of the game at a higher level of proficiency. "She is very determined and willing to hang in for the long matches. Sometimes that's what it takes to win," said Coach Judy Corliss. On Oct. 5, Corr earned respect when she beat her Campo opponent, the same girl who had beaten her in a previous match, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6. Corr also swung her way into victories against Dublin, Benicia, and Alhambra. "She is a very good sport, and supportive of the rest of the girls on the team," said Coach Corliss. Because of her vast progression this year, she adds an extra push that the Dons need to attain their goal of third place in league.



Blueprint Photo/Sophia Maund